

WASHINGTON, DC –“ Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after President Barack Obama approved Connecticut’s February 18 request for a major disaster declaration for federal aid connected to the January 12 snowstorm. Although the declaration includes six of eight Connecticut counties, the applications for Middlesex and Windham Counties are still under review.

“This declaration is good news for local governments in Tolland, New London and Hartford Counties who dealt with relentless snowfall this winter. This assistance will provide critical relief to local officials who are still working to rebuild and recover from these budget-busting storms. I thank President Obama for supporting our request, as well as Gov. Malloy for his good work moving the State’s appeal along quickly.

“I am disappointed, however, that the President’s declaration did not include Middlesex and Windham Counties, both of which exceeded by more than 200 percent FEMA’s established per-capita threshold for public assistance. In Middlesex, for instance, FEMA included in its consideration how this particular snowfall compared to historic record-breaking storms. Consequently, although Middlesex County incurred more than \$1 million in total costs to deal with this storm, the fact that it snowed 28 inches in a single day in 1897 has cast their assistance into doubt. In Windham County, the per-capita cost of responding to the storm was the highest in the state, yet they are also still waiting for aid their neighboring counties have already been approved for.

“I look forward to continuing to work with the Governor and my colleagues in the Connecticut delegation to advocate for Windham and Middlesex Counties. These storms took a great toll in those two counties, and I will continue to fight so that they have the resources they need to recover.”