

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 9, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

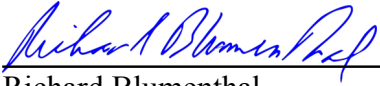
We write in strong support of Governor Ned Lamont's September 9, 2024, request for a major disaster declaration under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act after the sudden and severe flooding that occurred on August 18, 2024, in the State of Connecticut. Governor Lamont has specifically requested both Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) for New Haven, Fairfield, and Litchfield Counties. The Governor is also requesting that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented statewide. We strongly support this request and urge its expeditious approval.

On Sunday, August 18, towns around Connecticut received up to 16 inches of rain – a 1,000-year flood event in some of the harder hit areas. The flooding caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the closure of rail lines and more than 25 roadways; forced some people to evacuate from their homes while others were stranded in theirs; and devastated local businesses. Tragically, three individuals lost their lives during the floods. Thirty-eight homes across the three counties were completely destroyed, with a total of almost 2,000 homes suffering some form of damage. Initial damage assessments from the state were reported at \$206 million.

On August 20, Governor Lamont sought and was granted a federal emergency declaration. Since then, teams from FEMA have been on the ground in Connecticut assessing the damage. They completed the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for IA on September 6. The PDA for PA began on September 9, and the estimates of the extent of the damage from local governments and state agencies make it clear that the threshold for PA will be met. As the official PA data is expected as soon as the end of the week, we urge no delay in granting Connecticut's request. As the Governor's disaster declaration request makes clear, the state and affected counties can demonstrate that they meet or exceed cost threshold requirements for a disaster declaration.

We therefore urge you to swiftly grant Connecticut's major disaster declaration request in order to help our state recoup losses and carry out the process of recovering.

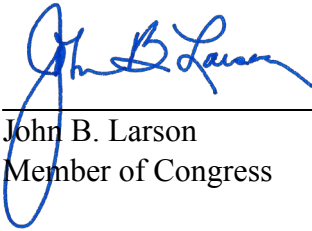
Sincerely,



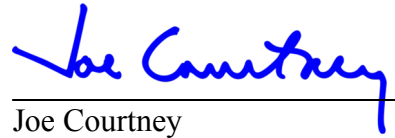
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



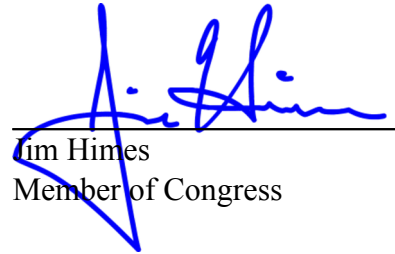
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



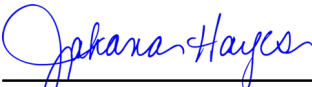
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

CC: Administrator Deanne Criswell, Federal Emergency Management Agency