

## Governor Must Ask President Obama to Issue a Disaster Declaration for the State

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today sent a letter to New Jersey Governor Christie, urging him to ask President Obama to issue a disaster declaration for New Jersey so that the state can receive needed federal disaster assistance.

“Our residents are in need of federal assistance to immediately help them recover from these large and severe storms. Because of this, I urge you to immediately seek a disaster declaration from President Obama on behalf of our state,” Holt wrote.

If the Governor makes the request and the President declares that a disaster exists, it would trigger a number of federal programs to assist in the response and recovery effort, including relief for homeowners, businesses, and local organizations.

A copy of the letter is below:

January 12, 2011

The Honorable Christopher Christie

Governor

State of New Jersey

PO Box 1

Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Christie,

In light of the large, consecutive and highly disruptive snow storms in our state thus far this winter, I request that you urge President Obama to issue a disaster declaration for New Jersey so that our state can receive needed federal disaster assistance.

As you know, communities across our state were virtually paralyzed by the late December 2010 storm. The fresh accumulation overnight has only added to the burden that local communities face in trying keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and to remove the fresh snow and ice in order to make roads passable for the public. I have had the opportunity to see first hand the damage caused by these severe weather conditions.

Our residents are in need of federal assistance to immediately help them recover from these large and severe storms. Because of this, I urge you to immediately seek a disaster declaration from President Obama on behalf of our state. Thank you for your immediate attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT

Member of Congress