

WASHINGTON -- **Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01)** is an original co-sponsor of a bill introduced this week that will provide relief to farmers who have been negatively affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

“While a lot of attention has rightfully been paid to the significant damage to property owners and small businesses throughout the state, we cannot forget the affect that Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee have had on our community farms,” Congressman Larson said. “Many farmers have lost crops and livestock and sustained significant damage during these storms. This bill will go a long way in helping farmers recoup some of the losses they have suffered.”

The bill, HR 2905, provides a temporary waiver for farmers who may not have crop insurance or be part of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) so that they may access federal relief programs including:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP);
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

Farmers who want to seek this waiver will have to subsequently purchase crop insurance or enter into NAP by the state deadline of the specific commodity they seek assistance for.

“This bill takes a practical approach to removing hurdles for farmers who need relief from these unprecedented storms,” said Congressman Larson.

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