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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Serving Westport | 136th Assembly District

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Emergency Preparedness and Heating Assistance

Over the last several months Connecticut has been hit by two unusual and devastating storms. Now that we've made it through and had time to reflect, it is time to prepare for the next storm. On the state level, I will be working with my colleagues in the General Assembly, in my capacity as a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, to update our infrastructure and ensure that CL&P improves their storm response.

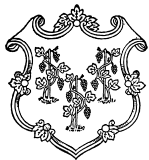
However, no matter how well prepared we are, infrastructure is vulnerable and a sufficiently strong storm may still cause long term power outages. On the reverse side I've given some suggestions for what you and your family can do to prepare for any long term outage that may occur in the future.

In addition, with the cold winds of winter upon us, I've also provided information regarding heating assistance for needy residents and information for those more fortunate that may be willing to help keep their neighbors warm in these tough times.



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Be Prepared

These are simple and easy things you can do to prepare for the next storm

- Keep up to date by registering your phone and e-mail address with the state's Emergency Alert and Notification System at www.ctalert.gov, or Westport's emergency notification systems, cne.coderedweb.com and www.nixle.com. These systems will keep you informed about the emergency and the services available from the state and town.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends you have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food ready at all times as well as one gallon of water per person per day ready for at least a three-day emergency. If you have a well, make sure you have some 5 gallon containers you can fill with drinking water. Also be sure you have a leak-proof drain plug for your tub, so you can fill that too.
- Have a supply of batteries, flashlights and candles.
- The day before a storm, be sure to fill your gas tanks and purchase gas for generators.

For additional information and suggestions please visit FEMA's disaster preparedness website www.ready.gov or the Westport Weston Health District website at www.wvhd.org.

Heating Assistance

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has cut back on heating assistance this year, so if you believe you will need assistance this year I encourage you to call **(203) 899-2420** now to see if you qualify. With federal aide being cut you should also consider contacting the Westport Warm Up Fund by calling Westport Human Services at **(203)341-1050**

If you are fortunate to have the means, please consider giving to the Westport Warmup Fund to help your neighbors that may be in need this winter. All donations are tax deductible and all donations will be matched up to \$25,000. To donate, contact Westport Human Services at **(203)341-1050**, or you can visit www.unitedwaycfc.org/westportwarmup.

You may also consider helping Operation Fuel, Connecticut's statewide heating assistance non-profit, by participating in the "Add a Dollar" program on your utility bill. You can donate any amount by checking the box on your utility bill or online bill payment. 100% of your donation will go directly towards helping low-income families stay warm this winter. You may also donate directly by going to www.operationfuel.org/donate.

Purchasing & Maintaining Generators

- Be sure to research which generator is right for your family and your needs. Take stock of what appliances you'll need to run in case of an emergency (i.e. refrigerators and space heaters).
- Make sure the generator is properly hooked up by a licensed electrician. Improperly wired generators can jeopardize the safety of your family and those working to restore power.
- Generators need to be properly ventilated and never run indoors or in a closed garage. During the last storm the state had several cases of carbon monoxide poisoning due to generators.
- Generators need periodic maintenance when not in use and regular maintenance when being used. Please consult the manufacturer's instructions for further details.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact my office with any questions or visit my website to sign up for email updates

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