

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Oneida County’s **U.S. Representatives Richard Hanna** (NY-24) and **Bill Owens** (NY-23) last week called on President Barack Obama to declare the county a Major Disaster in the wake of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Both storms caused widespread damage to public areas, businesses, farms and homes throughout Oneida County. Hanna and Owens have seen much of the impact and believe the recovery process is just beginning.

Declaring Oneida County a Major Disaster would allow for the county to be expeditiously considered for aid to local governments as well as individual households and small businesses through aid from: the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

“Last week, I saw many folks in Oneida County who were impacted by severe flooding,” **Hanna said**

“Many were hit with back-to-back damages from both storms and now residents are preparing for cold weather to arrive. I am working closely with Congressman Owens and Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. to ensure our residents receive the assistance they need as soon as possible.”

“The communities we represent in Oneida County deserve access to support from the federal government to get small businesses, homeowners and farmers back on their feet,” **Owens said** . “So much depends on our friends and neighbors receiving the assistance they need to get back to the business of employing workers, growing crops and contributing to the economic development of Upstate New York. I thank Governor Cuomo as well as Congressman Hanna for their work on this critical issue.”

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