



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**



**Testimony- Commissioner James M. Thomas  
Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

**Appropriations Committee  
February 9, 2009**

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Good afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the budget of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. I would like to thank Governor M. Jodi Rell and Secretary Robert Genuario for their support of our agency. We support the Governor's recommended budget as outlined and are appreciative of the support and resources provided.

During our fourth year of existence, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has made tremendous progress in advancing its goals of strengthening planning and coordination between emergency management and homeland security; and improving communication, coordination and collaboration with federal, state and local entities. During the past year, DEMHS played a vital role as policy advisor, liaison, planner, and communicator with other state, local, tribal, and federal entities, both public and private.

The current funding levels recommended in Governor Rell's biennial budget are adequate. These resources will greatly enhance our vital mission to protect Connecticut's citizens from natural or man-made disasters.

We cannot precisely predict federal funding levels. However, DEMHS continues to procure for Connecticut all available emergency management and homeland security grant funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's recommended FY10 and FY11 budget. I will be glad to answer any questions you might have at this time.