

I'm now on Twitter, click here to follow me: [@RepJohnOlver](#)



On November 1, I joined the rest of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation in sending a letter to President Obama to support Governor Patrick's request for an emergency declaration following the severe storms at the end of October. These storms, combined with the destruction of Hurricane Irene and the tornadoes in June, pushed our state and local response capabilities to the limit and made federal assistance crucial to restoring power and removing debris. I am happy to report that the President issued an emergency declaration in response to our letter on November 1.

On November 14, the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill was introduced in the House of Representatives. I was disappointed to learn that the language of this bill would allow U.S. horse slaughterhouses to potentially resume operations after a five year ban. While the FY 2012 Agriculture bill did not include funding for horse meat inspections, it does not explicitly prevent the U.S. Department of Agriculture from carrying out inspections as in past years. The inspections could cost the USDA \$3 million to \$5 million annually, which would need to come from the existing budget. I will continue to work to prevent the resumption of horse slaughter and support a federal ban on this inhumane practice. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2966, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011.

