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**CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY JOHNSON GETS LITCHFIELD  
COUNTY DISPATCH INC. CONNECTED**

**TORRINGTON, CT** - Congresswoman Nancy Johnson was on hand today to “plug in” the new communication lines for Litchfield County Dispatch Incorporated. At a ceremonial groundbreaking at the Soapstone Hill Tower Facility, the Congresswoman was joined by USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle who presented the Litchfield County Dispatch Inc. (LCD) with \$300,000 in federal funds that will enable the non-profit emergency dispatch group to purchase vital communications equipment.

Litchfield County Dispatch Inc. serves as an emergency 911 communications center that provides service to nineteen towns in the Northwest corner of Connecticut. The funds from USDA Rural Development will allow LCD to purchase updated communications equipment such as alpha paging systems, and will replace the current low-band radio system with a more modern and dependable VHF band radio system.

“This is an issue of public safety and emergency response,” said Congresswoman Johnson. “This \$300,000 is so important to the residents of the Northwest Corner. I will continue working to ensure that community programs like the Litchfield County Dispatch receive the federal funding they deserve. These programs provide such valuable services to Connecticut residents.”

“We expect that this will be the first of three phases of funding for LCD” said USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. “Rural Development is committed to providing Connecticut’s Northwest corner with the most advanced, reliable 911 services available. Additionally, we’re proud of this project because the new Farm Bill has called for the expansion of 911 access.”

Litchfield County Dispatch Inc. is eligible for federal funds through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities program (administered through the Rural Housing Service) which provides low-interest loans, grants and loan guarantees in order to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve community facilities that provide essential services in rural areas.

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