

**NEWS RELEASE**



**Governor Bob Taft**

**TAFT ANNOUNCES DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR OCTOBER STORMS**  
**Residents may apply for state and federal grants and low-interest loans**

COLUMBUS (October 26, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft announced today that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has granted his request to issue a disaster declaration for Pike County. This declaration enables individuals and families, in Pike County as well as those in contiguous counties, who incurred uninsured losses resulting from severe storms and flooding on October 4, to apply for long-term, low-interest loans of up to \$240,000. Counties contiguous to Pike and thus eligible to apply include Adams, Highland, Jackson, Ross and Scioto.

“Local and state damage assessments indicated that many homes in Pike County suffered extensive losses,” Taft said. “These grants and low interest loans will ensure that Ohioans impacted by these storms receive the financial help they need to begin the recovery process.”

In addition to low-interest loans available from the SBA, Governor Taft announced that residents of Pike and contiguous counties might also be eligible for grants through the State Individual Assistance program. The State Individual Assistance program makes available individual cash grants of up to \$16,800 per household for uninsured, unmet, essential needs incurred as a result of declared disasters. This program is available for those individuals who do not meet SBA's loan criteria.

###

**Media Contacts:** Mark Rickel, Governor's Office, at (614) 644-0957; or  
C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA, at (614) 799-3695