Washington, D.C. – Today Congressmen Rooney (FL-16) and Adam Putnam (FL-22) sent a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requesting the Secretary grant Florida's request for a preliminary disaster declaration for the damage caused by the recent freezes across the State. Governor Crist and Agriculture Commissioner Bronson petitioned the USDA for a statewide declaration finding that all sixty-seven (67) counties suffered damage.

"Florida's agriculture industry has suffered a significant blow over the past two weeks. Citrus, fruit, vegetable, sugar cane and other growers have reported damage and crop losses across my district and the state," Said Rooney. "I urge the USDA to declare a disaster promptly so these communities can begin the long process of recovering from this devastating freeze."

A copy of the letter is attached in addition to a January 11, 2010 delegation letter to the USDA.