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November 1, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

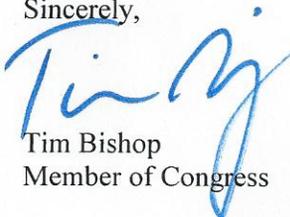
I write in response to urgent concerns raised by municipal officials in the Village of West Hampton Dunes following the breach of the barrier island east of Moriches Inlet on the South Shore of Long Island by Super Storm Sandy.

A preliminary inspection by coastal erosion experts has determined that the damage in the area is clearly beyond the capacity of local officials and New York State to mitigate. Therefore, I urge you to request the immediate activation of the Fire Island to Montauk Point Project's Breach Contingency Plan to prevent further property damage in the area.

The Breach Contingency Plan, approved in February 1996, provides a mechanism for rapid breach closure of the barrier islands through the 83-mile FIMP project area. Under the approved Project Cooperation Agreement, the Army Corps of Engineers District Commander is authorized to execute specific Performance Partnership Agreements with the State of New York in order to close breaches immediately after coastal storms.

I will assist in any way I can to ensure that New York State's request is immediately considered at the top levels of the federal government. All New Yorkers, myself included, truly appreciate your steady and decisive leadership in this crisis. I look forward to working with you to ensure the federal government is a full partner in protecting and rebuilding our coastal communities in the aftermath of this historic storm.

Sincerely,



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

CC:

Col. Tom Owens, New York District Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers
Steve Bellone, County Executive, Suffolk County, New York
Gary Vegliante, Mayor, Village of Westhampton Dunes
Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor, Town of Southampton
Kathleen Walsh, Acting Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven

TB/ol