



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP CALLS GAO REPORT 'A BLARING ALARM'**

*Congressman Urges Acceleration of Plans to Secure Plum Island*

**Washington, DC:** Congressman Tim Bishop reacted to a report from the General Accounting Office, which referred to 'incomplete and limited' security at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

Below is a statement from Congressman Bishop:

"After reading the GAO report, I am grateful that our community has been safe despite serious errors in Plum Island's security. This report is not just a wake-up call; it's a blaring alarm.

"For over a year, local officials and members of Local 30 have been warning USDA, the Department of Homeland Security and the public that Plum Island's security is inadequate. While we have seen some recent progress, under the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security, we can only hope these efforts accelerate.

"We also now know that LB&B's inept management cost the government over half a million dollars, far more than the cost of Local 30's demands. But instead of using these funds to retain experienced workers and improve security at Plum Island, it was used to finance union-busting at the expense of our community's safety.

"What is now important is to learn from these mistakes and secure Plum Island immediately. I will continue to work with Homeland Security, the local management of the Island and the new contractor to make sure that we secure Plum Island and guarantee the safety of our community."

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