



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOP SLAMS PROPOSED SHOREHAM INCINERATOR

In Letter to EPA, Congressman States Strong Opposition

Shoreham, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop today sent a letter to Marianne L. Horinko, Acting Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), outlining his opposition to a proposed garbage incinerator in Shoreham. American Ref-Fuel has tried in recent weeks to find community support without success.

“The purpose of this letter is two-fold,” Bishop said. “First, I want to let the community know that I am wholeheartedly against a garbage incinerator in Shoreham. Second, I want to bring this issue to the attention of federal environmental officials.”

Bishop has been in contact with officials from the Coalition for a Sound Environment and has vowed to work with them and the community to block this project.

A copy of the letter follows:

October 3, 2003

Marianne L. Horinko
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Horinko

I am writing to bring to your attention a proposed project that I believe would cause great harm to Long Island’s environment. There have been multiple recent news reports that American Ref-Fuel is interested in building a trash incinerator at Shoreham, Long Island.

Fortunately, the local community has begun to mobilize against this project, and they have formed a new organization, the Coalition for a Sound Environment. As you may be aware, there was a previous failed attempt to construct an unsafe and environmentally harmful nuclear plant in Shoreham. As a consequence, that fight created an active and informed community that is now organized to win this fight.

I believe that an incinerator would be a disaster for Northern Brookhaven and would seriously damage quality of life in our community, which is why I am wholeheartedly opposed to any

proposal. The image of trash barges streaming through the Long Island Sound hauling New York City's garbage to our shores and incinerator smoke rising from the North Shore is an environmental and aesthetic nightmare. Additionally, the fleets of trucks that would be needed to haul garbage to and from any plant would break the back of our already overburdened roads.

It is also clear that there is widespread community opposition to an incinerator. This is reflected in both community leaders coming out against the rumored plan as well as individuals that have contacted my office to express their opposition.

I was pleased to read public statements from Key-Span and LIPA, the owners of the property, who have pledged that they would not support activities without community approval. Their example shows respect for the opinions of the community. Conversely, I was disappointed by newspaper accounts of American Ref-Fuel's attempt to bypass the civic organizations. Civic organizations play a vital role in keeping our communities together and are a strong starting point for debates that affect our families.

I know that you share my desire to protect Long Island's pristine environment. I look forward to working with your office on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

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