



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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**Press Release**

**Bishop, Sweeney Announce Victory for Brookhaven National Lab**  
*Department of Homeland Security Changes its Forced Two-Tiered Approach*

**Washington**—Today, Representatives Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) and John Sweeney (R-Clifton Park) announced that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will reverse a December 16 decision that could have cost Brookhaven National Laboratory millions of dollars. Brookhaven is currently the only national lab working on homeland security in the Northeast region.

DHS had adopted a two-tiered approach designating some labs working on homeland security as ‘intramural,’ meaning they work directly with the agency and others as ‘extramural,’ meaning they compete for projects like any private company. Bishop and Sweeney spearheaded a December 10 letter with the entire New York delegation, requesting that Brookhaven Lab be designated as an ‘intramural’ lab. Now, the new DHS policy would scrap the forced two-tiered approach, and give labs the option of participating in the intramural or extramural programs. Despite their initial setback, Bishop and Sweeney continued to follow-up and fight for Brookhaven Lab.

“This victory is proof that hard work and dogged determination pay off. Thanks to the efforts of the entire New York delegation, we have preserved millions of dollars and critical jobs in Brookhaven,” Bishop said. “I am very proud that our delegation joins together regardless of party to protect New York’s interests in the vital research underway at Brookhaven Lab, and Congressman Sweeney earns special praise for his tireless work on this issue.”

“The New York delegation today proved that by working together in a nonpartisan way, we can accomplish real results for our constituents,” Sweeney said. “Brookhaven plays a crucial role in homeland security issues, especially in research and development. I’m extremely pleased with today’s decision and would especially like to thank Congressman Bishop for the leadership role he played in getting this done for New York. Along with Congressman Boehlert and the Science Committee we were able to ensure that some of America’s brightest minds will continue to get adequate funding for important homeland security research projects.”

“I am extremely pleased with all the support Brookhaven National Lab has received from Congressman John Sweeney and Congressman Tim Bishop,” said Praveen Chaudhari, Director, Brookhaven National Lab. “They took the lead in making sure that all the national laboratories that have expertise that can contribute to this country’s homeland security mission have an opportunity to do so.”

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DHS issued a memo on December 16 designating Brookhaven an 'extramural' lab. Bishop and Sweeney felt this would under-utilize the skills and experience of Brookhaven's scientists, and potentially leave them without any funding for homeland security projects.

The five labs slated to become 'intramural' were Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Pacific Northwest in Washington, Lawrence Livermore in California, and Los Alamos and Sandia, both in New Mexico. The four originally designated 'extramural' were Brookhaven Lab, Argonne in Illinois, and Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, and Bechtel-Nevada laboratories.

"I would also like to thank the Department of Homeland Security for recognizing Brookhaven Lab's unique contribution to protecting our region," Bishop said. "It is vital to the safety of our communities that we have a lab in the Northeast doing homeland security research, considering that our region is at the epicenter of the threats our nation faces. The Department of Homeland Security did the right thing in responding to our calls to reverse its earlier decision."

The lab is located in Bishop's Eastern Long Island district, and Sweeney is a member of the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

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