



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP LAUNCHES FIRST SALVO IN FIGHT TO RESTORE COASTAL PROTECTION FUNDING

Says House Budget Would Harm Long Island's Shoreline

Washington, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop today introduced an amendment to the House Budget Resolution to fully fund the Army Corps of Engineers, which would restore coastal protection funding vital to Long Island. Bishop introduced the amendment with Congresswoman Darlene Hooley (D-Oregon). Although the amendment was defeated by the House Rules Committee, Bishop vowed to keep pressing the fight to restore coastal protection funds.

“Protecting our coast is vital to the health and safety of our families and to Long Island’s economy,” Bishop said. “This budget embraces the wrong priorities at the expense of our communities. But we are only at the beginning of the budget process and I am going to fight hard at every opportunity to restore coastal protection funding.”

The President requested \$63.7 million for coastal protection projects, which are critical to Long Island and other shoreline communities. This is a cut of nearly 50 percent from the \$121.2 million approved by Congress last year.

The Bishop-Hooley Amendment would fund the Army Corps of Engineers at a total level of \$5.5 billion, which is the estimated level to address urgent infrastructure nationwide. The budget currently funds the Corps at \$4.2 Billion, a \$350 million cut from the previous fiscal year. The Amendment included a budget offset so it would not have increased the size of the deficit.

“Underfunding the Army Corps of Engineers is a penny-wise but pound-foolish strategy,” Bishop said. “This small investment in the Army Corps and protecting our coastline would yield billions of dollars in annual economic activity, and ensure the protection of our communities.”

Bishop also expressed his disappointment that the budget currently does not fund the Fire Island to Montauk Point Study, a comprehensive initiative that would provide for storm protection and beach erosion control along a stretch of the south shore of Long Island covering nearly 83 miles. The study has already cost upwards of \$20 million. The cost of continuing the project for another year is estimated at \$1.7 million.

“I remain confident that we will succeed in our fight to fund this study which is vital to protect our coastline,” Bishop said.

The study is scheduled to produce a draft Environmental Impact Statement by the end of the year.

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