



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

JUNE 25, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER
(202) 225-3826**

BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$1.25 MILLION FOR MONTAUK

Funds to Protect Lighthouse, Dredge Lake Montauk, Continue Navigation and Shore Protection Study

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop today announced \$1,250,000 for projects in and around Montauk, including funding to protect the famed Montauk Point Lighthouse. There is also funding to dredge Lake Montauk, and continue an Army Corps of Engineers study to improve navigation and shore protection in and around Lake Montauk.

Bishop worked to include the funds in the Fiscal Year 2005 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which passed the House on Friday by a vote of 370 to 16.

“This is part of my continuing effort to deliver federal funds to protect and enhance Long Island’s vital resources,” Bishop said.

The bill includes \$200,000 to protect the Montauk Point Lighthouse. The Lighthouse, which was commissioned by President Washington and completed in 1796, is included in the National Register of Historic Places. While originally built 300 feet from the eastern tip of Long Island, the Lighthouse is now located only 75 feet from the edge of cliffs. This project will protect this famed monument for future generations.

“The Montauk Point Lighthouse is a Long Island icon that connects our past to our future,” Bishop said. “It is comforting to know that we will protect the Lighthouse, so that future generations of Long Islanders can share this treasure.”

The bill also includes \$750,000 to dredge the Inlet at Lake Montauk to ensure safe passage for local fisherman, recreational boaters, and the Coast Guard. The Army Corps of Engineers is currently determining the extent of shoaling and the amount of material that will need to be removed. Sand from the project will be deposited on beaches west of the Inlet, which will provide some temporary protection while the larger navigation study is underway. The Inlet was last dredged in 2000, when a fishing boat capsized due to extreme shoaling. The bill also includes \$300,000 to continue the navigation and erosion control study.

“Safe reliable navigation of Lake Montauk is vital to Montauk’s economy,” Bishop said. “This funding will help meet our immediate needs, and I will continue to work with Corps officials on long-term solutions. I am hopeful this study will result in a plan to stabilize the shoreline.”

Although these funds passed the House today, they still must be approved by the Senate, and then signed into law by the President. Fiscal Year 2005 begins on October 1 of this year.

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