



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP SUPPORTS LAWSUIT TO MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL OVER APPROVAL OF LNG PLATFORMS

California Case Could Set Precedent on Broadwater

Washington, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop announced today that he will be weighing in on a California court case that could have broad implications for Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) projects, such as Broadwater. Bishop, along with several other Members of Congress, are filing a friend of the court brief, which supports the position that the States and local communities, not the federal government, should have primary jurisdiction over approving LNG platforms. The brief will be filed today in the 9th Circuit Court.

“This effort is about making sure that Long Islanders have a voice about what goes on in the Long Island Sound,” Bishop said. “The federal government should not have the ability to ignore state and local officials when it comes to approving something that has such serious environmental and safety concerns.”

The California case is a lawsuit brought by the California Public Utility Commission against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC issued a permit for a LNG platform in Long Beach Harbor, despite objections from the State regulatory body.

In the brief, the lawmakers are asking the Court to disregard language that was added to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which supports FERC’s claims. Because that language is not part of the bill, there was no notice of it, and members did not have the ability to review it. Although that language does not have the force of law, Bishop and the other lawmakers want to make it clear to the Court that it does not reflect the will of Congress.

“We need to make sure that a judge does not confuse a few words added in the dark of night, with something that was thoroughly debated and approved by Congress,” Bishop said. “Because the California case will set the precedent on this issue, there is no room for error.”

The friend of the court brief is being organized by Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), who represents the community of Fall River, Massachusetts, which is currently fighting a proposed LNG platform.

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