



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP SLAMS CUTS TO LI SOUND PROGRAM**

*Warns That Deep Cuts to the EPA Will Cause Irreparable Harm to Long Island Sound*

**Washington, DC-** In a Congressional hearing today, Congressman Tim Bishop criticized President Bush's proposed budget cuts which will devastate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Long Island Sound Study. The President's budget cuts funding for the Long Island Sound Study by approximately 93 percent, just one of many cuts to the EPA's budget. The EPA's budget was discussed at a hearing on Wednesday of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.

"If these devastating cuts go into effect, the Long Island Sound Study will exist in name only," Bishop said. "They'll be able to keep the lights on, but there will be nobody home."

Although the Long Island Sound Study's budget is authorized at \$40 million, the actual expenditures have never approached that amount. Last year, the program was funded at \$6.7 million. The President's proposed budget funds the program at \$477,000. This would result in massive cuts in every area of the program, including monitoring of the Sound and restoration efforts.

Bishop noted at the hearing that the Long Island Sound should be a national priority because 10 percent of our nation's population lives within 40 miles of it, and expressed that it is "vital that we protect this major body of water."

Overall, the President's proposed budget would cut the EPA's funding by nearly \$200 million. Bishop believes that with such a drastic cut, it will be substantially more difficult to restore funding for the Long Island Sound Study Office to its previous level.

"I am distressed by the Administration's continuing retreat from the protection of our environmental resources under the pretenses of economic growth," Bishop said at the hearing. "As someone who represents over 300 miles of coastline and numerous communities that depend on a clean safe environment for tourism and quality of life, I fail to see the correlation between decimating our shoreline and growing the economy."

The EPA, New York, and Connecticut formed the Long Island Sound Study in 1985, a bi-state partnership consisting of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound. The development of this office stemmed from the enactment of the federal Clean Water Act of 1972.

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