

**Congress of the United States**  
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**CONTACT:**

**JON SCHNEIDER (BISHOP), (202) 225-4331**

**NINA BLACKWELL (CLINTON), (212) 688-9559**

**BISHOP, CLINTON WELCOME PATAKI, RELL AGREEMENT  
TO PURSUE COMPREHENSIVE LONG ISLAND SOUND  
DREDGING PLAN**

*Governors' decision in line with efforts by Bishop and Clinton to look at alternatives to dumping of contaminated material in the Sound*

**Washington, DC**-Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congressman Tim Bishop today welcomed the newly combined efforts of New York Governor Pataki and Connecticut Governor Rell, who recently wrote a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking the Corps develop a comprehensive plan for managing dredge materials in the Long Island Sound watershed.

The Governors' agreement follows in the footsteps of efforts by both Senator Clinton and Congressman Bishop to develop a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) that would provide a comprehensive framework for dredge disposal in the Sound.

Clinton and Bishop have both introduced legislation which would force the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) that would seek alternative methods of dredge waste disposal for contaminated materials rather than the current plan of open water dumping. The Long Island Sound Preservation and Protection Act was cosponsored by the entire Long Island congressional delegation and would also establish future guidelines for contaminated dredged spoil management.

"I am pleased that Governors Pataki and Rell have decided to support our call for a comprehensive Dredged Material Management Plan," Senator Clinton said. "I have said all along that we must look harder and more thoroughly for alternatives to dumping contaminated waste in Long Island Sound and I am pleased that the Governors agree. We need careful planning that involves a strong role for the State of New York in this process - we cannot let short term economics overtake long term environmental concerns."

"I commend Governors Pataki and Rell for their joint efforts to protect the Long Island Sound," Bishop said. "I welcome Governor Rell as a partner in protecting this valuable shared resource."

"I am very disappointed that the Environmental Protection Agency is now the only agency that thinks dumping in the Long Island Sound is a good idea," Bishop added. "The EPA needs to do its job and protect this vital environmental resource, by seeking reasonable alternatives."

In a letter released last week, Governors Pataki and Rell joined Senator Clinton and Congressman Bishop's calls for the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP).

The Long Island Sound Protection Act as introduced into the 108th Congress would require the Corps of Engineers and the EPA to work with other federal agencies and the states of New York and Connecticut to develop a dredged material management plan (DMMP) that would govern dumping in the Sound. Senator Clinton and Congressman Bishop plan to reintroduce the legislation early this year.

The Long Island Sound Protection Act would require the DMMP to meet a set of objectives, including:

- identifying the major sources and quantities of dredge material and contamination that require disposal;
- determining management actions that are to be taken to reduce sediment and contaminant loading of dredged areas;
- thoroughly assessing alternative locations, treatment technologies and beneficial uses for dredged material;
- ensuring that dumping is the disposal option of the last resort after all other options have been exhausted;
- securing alternative methods of disposal of contaminated dredge materials, including decontamination technologies, and alternative uses of materials, including upland disposal, containment, beach nourishment, marsh restoration, habitat construction, and other beneficial reuses; and
- confirming the specific roles of Federal, State, and local agencies with respect to various aspects of dredged material management.

The Long Island Sound Protection Act also would stipulate that no dumping can occur in Long Island Sound, except in accordance with a DMMP that has been approved by the Governors of New York and Connecticut.

In addition, the bill would provide for public hearings in both New York and Connecticut during the development of the DMMP.

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