



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP HELPS RESTORE BNL FUNDING CUTS

RHIC Would Get Funding Increase in House Bill

Washington, DC-Congressman Tim Bishop announced a major victory today for Brookhaven National Laboratory. Bishop worked to restore funding for numerous BNL programs, including the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) and the Center for Translational Neuroimaging in the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Resources Appropriations Bill.

"This is a huge win for Brookhaven National Lab and all of Long Island," Bishop stated. "These funding cuts threatened jobs as well as scientific breakthroughs. Restoring this funding will save jobs and provide a big bang to Long Island's economy."

"I am very pleased with the strong support we received from Congressman Bishop and House Energy & Water Development Subcommittee Chairman David Hobson to have funding restored for RHIC operations, our medical imaging program, and other science activities. This funding will allow us to continue to pursue our world class research and importantly help to preserve jobs," stated BNL Director Dr. Praveen Chaudhari.

Under President Bush's proposed budget, the RHIC would have seen a cut of nearly \$13 million from its overall budget of approximately \$131 million. This would have resulted in cutting back the machine's use from 31 weeks to 12 weeks next year. However, Bishop secured an additional \$18 million in the House passed bill, which brings the total funding to \$136 million, a level about \$5 million higher than 2005. The world-renowned 2.4-mile superconductor accelerates gold ions to nearly the speed of light and causes collisions that recreate the 'big bang', offering a glimpse into the birth of the universe during its first few microseconds.

The Center for Translational Neuroimaging, which conducts basic clinical research with a strong focus on drug addiction and obesity, saw its funding obliterated under the President's proposed budget, which would have cut funding by nearly \$2 million. Bishop was successful in fending off the cuts and restoring the entire Center for Translational Neuroimaging budget of \$5.1 million.

Bishop thanked Congressman David Hobson (R-OH), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Congressman Peter Visclosky (D-IN), and the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, for helping to restore the cuts. Hobson toured BNL with Bishop in April, and attended the groundbreaking of the new Center for Functional Nanomaterials. Throughout the day, Bishop discussed the Lab's important research and the need for adequate funding.

"Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky are true friends of America's scientific community," Bishop said. "I am very glad that we have two champions who understand the important research being performed here in Brookhaven and throughout the nation."

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