



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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**CONTACT: BRIAN FARBER
(202) 225-3826**

BISHOP PUTS COASTAL STUDY BACK INTO BUDGET

Fire Island to Montauk Pt. Study Had Been Zeroed Out

Washington, DC - Congressman Tim Bishop announced today that he was able to get funding for the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study (FIMP) back into the budget. President Bush's fiscal year 2006 budget proposal zeroed out all funding for the FIMP study. However, after working with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Bishop was able to get \$200,000 included for the FIMP study in the FY '06 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that passed in the House of Representatives last night. The bill also funds other significant ventures on Long Island, including many key scientific projects at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"The future of the south shore of Long Island depends on completing this study," Bishop stated. "This project is a marathon and the finish line is in sight, we cannot relent in our efforts to complete this study." Bishop believes that this announcement will prove a successful beginning point for the Senate to pass legislation that will include the remaining portion of the funds needed for the FIMP completion.

"Fire Islanders appreciate the extra effort Congressman Bishop has made to keep the FIMP reformulation from collapsing on the one-yard line. He has shown real leadership on this issue in the House," stated Gerard Stoddard, President of the Fire Island Association and Chair of the Long Island Coastal Alliance.

As a Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which has oversight responsibilities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bishop has advocated for the completion of the FIMP study throughout his tenure in Congress. While also pushing for increased funding for the project, Bishop has kept in close contact with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., and other high ranking administration officials, in an attempt to expedite completion of the study.

The Fire Island to Montauk Reformulation Study has been underway since the early 1990s to study hurricane protection, erosion defense, and beach renourishment in flood prone areas along the 83-mile stretch of affected Long Island shoreline. The study is scheduled for completion in July 2007 with a final cost of approximately \$24 million. Over \$20 million has already been spent on the project.

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