



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP HELPS PROTECT LONG ISLAND ICONS IN BILL

Legislation also Includes Language to Protect Area's Coastline

Washington, DC- Congressman Tim Bishop today announced a victory for ongoing efforts to protect two of Long Island's most important icons; the Montauk Point Lighthouse and the Flight 800 Memorial at Smith Point Park. Bishop added language to protect these landmarks, as well as other local priorities, in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which passed the House of Representatives on Thursday by a vote of 406 to 14.

"Protecting Long Island's icons is vital to protecting our heritage," Bishop said. "The Flight 800 Memorial is sacred ground, preserving the memory of all those who were lost, and the blood and sweat of Long Islanders who mounted a heroic rescue effort. I have long said protecting the Memorial should be a national priority, and now it is."

The Flight 800 Memorial has been in peril due to severe beach erosion in the area. The best short-term solution would be to transport sand dredged from nearby Moriches Inlet to the area in front of the Memorial, which is not an eligible deposit site. Bishop added language to make the area around the TWA Flight 800 Memorial a priority location for beach rebuilding and sand deposition when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges Moriches Inlet.

Another shoreline icon, the Montauk Point Lighthouse, was originally built 300 feet from the eastern tip of Long Island; it is now located only 75 feet from the edge of nearby cliffs. Bishop helped clear up a dispute, allowing the Montauk Point Historical Society to pay for shore protection. Additionally, Bishop inserted language into the bill directing the Secretary of the Army to expedite the completion of the Corps of Engineers report on the Montauk Point project, speeding up action and demonstrating Congressional support for East End shore protection.

"The Montauk Point Lighthouse is our most visible symbol, and we must do all we can to protect it for future generations," Bishop said.

Bishop also announced reauthorization of the Atlantic Coast Monitoring Project, which will closely define and monitor the coastal processes that affect the 130 miles of the Atlantic Coast stretching from Coney Island to Montauk Point. The project had expired, however Bishop helped renew the monitoring program, which will help create an environmental blueprint for government's response to storms and heavy erosion while also laying the groundwork for a tsunami monitoring system.

WRDA governs the operations of the Corps of Engineers. The Corps is responsible for protecting all of America's shorelines and navigable waterways, in addition to implementing ecosystem restoration projects, flood control efforts and disaster relief. Bishop serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which oversees Corps activities.

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