



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP APPLAUDS NEW FAA PROPOSAL REQUIRING AIRCRAFT GAS TANK RETROFIT**

**TWA Flight 800 Tragedy Serves as Catalyst for Airline Industry Change**

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Tim Bishop welcomed today's announcement by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that it has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking requiring aircraft manufacturers to install protective devices designed to prevent fuel tanks from exploding - the cause of the TWA Flight 800 disaster, which claimed 230 lives on July 17, 1996.

"Nearly a decade after that tragic evening when TWA Flight 800 crashed off the Long Island coast, the families of the 230 passengers who lost their lives can find some measure of peace that the FAA has finally moved closer toward a plan to prevent other families from losing loved ones in preventable airline disasters resulting from fuel tank explosions," stated Bishop.

Bishop introduced legislation, "The Transport Aircraft Fuel Tank Safety Act of 2005," (H.R. 4174) earlier this month in the House of Representatives calling upon the FAA to address this very issue. Bishop has advocated for this upgrade now that new technology is available which could prevent future disasters similar to TWA Flight 800. The proposed rule will direct the airline industry to upgrade the fuel tanks of more than 3,200 Boeing and Airbus aircraft currently in service, as well as airliners to be manufactured in the future.

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