



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

*MAY 9, 2006*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3826**

## **BISHOP, ISRAEL CALL ON EPA TO PROTECT PUBLIC FROM PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION**

*Long Island Congressmen Urge EPA Administrator Johnson to Expediently Establish Safe  
Drinking Water Standards*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – In a letter sent today, Long Island Congressmen Tim Bishop and Steve Israel called on the Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Stephen L. Johnson to protect the public by immediately establishing a safe drinking water standard for perchlorate, a toxic chemical used in pyrotechnics and fireworks, nuclear reactors, automobile air bag inflators, and widely used in explosives and rocket propellant. The EPA has not established a federal regulation specifying safe amounts of perchlorate in drinking water and the harmful effects of perchlorate consumption, especially for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and young children.

The following letter was sent to EPA Administrator Steven Johnson today:

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson,

We are writing to express our concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's continuing delay in establishing a maximum contaminant standard with regard to the presence of a toxic chemical known as perchlorate in drinking water.

As members of the congressional delegation representing Long Island, we are deeply concerned about the effect of perchlorate in drinking water, particularly in response to the increasing rate of contamination in our region and the absence of any federal or state regulation, standard or guideline to mitigate its harmful effects.

Although the EPA added perchlorate to the Contaminant Candidate List in 1998 and we support your decision to establish an official reference dose, the agency has not yet promulgated a federal regulation establishing a contamination standard or otherwise identified the extent to

which this harmful substance represents a health risk, particularly as it concerns the most vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and young children.

Therefore, we believe that it is imperative for your agency to establish maximum contamination standards as soon as possible and to subsequently enforce compliance with the new rules. We strongly encourage you to expedite this process and look forward to working with you to protect the public from harmful substances like perchlorate. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

###