



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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HOUSE PASSES BISHOP AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR PLUM ISLAND LAWSUIT *Amendment Included in Homeland Security Appropriations Bill*

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Tim Bishop today announced the House of Representatives passed his amendment to prevent the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from using any taxpayer dollars to pay legal expenses associated with LB&B's ongoing lawsuit against Local 30 employees at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The amendment was attached to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives last night by a vote of 389-9.

"Too much time and energy have been wasted in ongoing appeals against Plum Island's hard-working employees," Bishop said. "I would urge LB&B to avoid further appeals and pay what they have been ordered to. But if they must persist in these punitive challenges, taxpayers should not be footing the bill."

Following three-and-a-half years of litigation, the National Labor Relations Board recently upheld the ruling of an Administrative Law Judge that nine of ten employees who were not allowed to return to their jobs on Plum Island following the 2002 strike were improperly denied reinstatement. The NLRB ordered that the employees deserved be reinstated and compensated with back pay for missed work. The ruling has been appealed by LB&B Associates Inc., the company that operated the Animal Disease Center four years ago.

The Local 30 members went on strike for better pay and job security on Aug. 14, 2002, and made an unconditional offer to return to work in March 2003.

"Homeland security funds should be used to make this nation safer, not to enable frivolous lawsuits," Bishop said.

Bishop's amendment was approved by voice vote. However, the amendment still faces a long road before being enacted into law. The Senate needs to pass its bill and reconcile with the House version before it is signed into law by the President.

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