



Congressman Tim Bishop

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NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP ENLISTS FEDS IN FIGHT TO PROTECT FORGE RIVER

Resolution Authorizes Army Corps to Study Vital Watershed's Condition

Washington, DC – Congressman Tim Bishop today announced that the federal government will join the fight to save the Forge River. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee yesterday passed a resolution authored by Bishop that would authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to become involved in the effort to identify the causes of the pollution and develop a strategy to clean the river.

“The voices of the residents of the South Shore have been heard in Washington,” said Bishop. “I will press to make sure that our call is answered and that the federal government does its part to protect the Forge River by restoring this vital watershed to health.” Bishop passed a ‘study resolution,’ which authorizes the Corps of Engineers to initiate an environmental review of the polluted river.

“Congressman Bishop has done his share to help our area by bringing the Army Corps of Engineers on board, and now we need to step up the pace of the cleanup and restoration of the Forge River,” said Ron Lupski, President of Save the Forge River.

Polluted by increasing runoff over several decades, Forge River has become nearly uninhabitable to wildlife. In response, environmental advocates – led by Save the Forge River and the Peconic Baykeeper – have recently mobilized to protect the Forge.

Additionally, Bishop joined in the successful effort to add the Forge to New York’s list of impaired waters, which must be classified as such by the state government before clean-up funding is available through the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bishop recently toured the river with Skip Rooney of Save the Forge River, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, and Lupski.

The Forge River study resolution will allow the Army Corps to assess any environmental problems and determine if there is a federal interest in conducting an environmental restoration project. Following the Committee’s adoption of the resolution, separate action is required to secure the funding necessary to conduct the study.

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