



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bishop Urges Federal Help for Southold Erosion

Sends Letter to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after Touring Threatened Area

Washington, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop sent a letter today to the top district official for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to urge federal assistance to protect private and public property along County Road 48 in Southold. Winter storms in the Hashamomuck Cove area have devastated the shoreline to the point where waves are crashing into gas lines near CR 48 and private residences are in danger of falling into the water. Bishop toured the threatened area on Sunday and met with local residents. County Legislator Ed Romaine, who has been closely involved with this issue, joined Bishop for the tour.

"Having seen this situation firsthand, I am convinced that we need urgent assistance," Bishop said. "This is not simply a matter of a few homes. Gas lines, water mains, and a major road are threatened. We need all levels of government to pull together, which is why I commend our local officials for staying on top of this situation."

A copy of Bishop's letter follows:

July 28, 2006

Colonel Richard J. Polo, Jr.
District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

Dear Colonel Polo,

I am writing to request your assistance in addressing severe erosion at Hashamomuck Cove in Southold, New York. Following years of constant hammering by winter storms, the small strip of land between Hashamomuck and County Road 48 is disappearing at an alarming rate and threatening residents living along the water as well as access to the east end of Long Island.

Property owners in Southold and local elected officials have contacted me with their concerns, and following a personal visit to the site, I am convinced that erosion along the beach threatens public safety and infrastructure. Recent storms have pushed the shoreline to within feet of County Road 48, threatening the roadway and exposing infrastructure such as water mains and gas lines. Therefore, I urge you to do anything within your power to streamline permit approvals and offer assistance to residents of Southold.

The country experienced its most active hurricane season in history last year, and with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists predicting another intense storm season, it is imperative that we prepare coastal communities such as Long Island with the tools to deal with impending weather disturbances. The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a successful track record of working with local decision makers, and I have no doubt that effective partnership will continue with your support and leadership. I appreciate your consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress

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