



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP: RECENT STORM SHOWS NEED FOR NEW WATER RESOURCES BILL

*House passes bill which would protect Long Island's shorelines and treasured
icons*

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop, a member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, applauded the strong bipartisan passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) this week. The bill passed 394-25.

“The recent nor'easter demonstrates our continued vulnerability to increasingly violent weather patterns,” said Bishop. “Through proper planning, regional cooperation and a little luck, we were spared the worst. However, steps must be taken to strengthen our defenses. That is why I have been working hard to ensure the current Water Resources bill addresses critical needs along the First Congressional District’s more than 300 miles of coastline.”

Congressman Bishop recently intervened to break up a bureaucratic logjam so that a critical Suffolk County \$4 million beach restoration project at Smith Point Park could move forward this spring in time to prevent lasting storm damage. The Flight 800 Memorial at the park has been exposed to severe beach erosion. The Water Resources bill would make the park a priority location for beach rebuilding and sand deposition when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges Moriches Inlet.

Another shoreline icon, the Montauk Point Lighthouse, was originally built 300 feet from the eastern tip of Long Island; it is now located only 75 feet from the edge of nearby cliffs. Bishop inserted language into the Water Resources bill directing the Secretary of the Army to expedite the completion of the Corps of Engineers report on the Montauk Point project, speeding up action and demonstrating Congressional support for East End shore protection. The bill would also authorize over \$7 million to protect for Montauk Point.

The bill would also reauthorize the Atlantic Coast Monitoring Project, which will closely define and monitor the coastal processes that affect 130 miles of the Atlantic Coast stretching from Coney Island to Montauk Point. The project had expired, however, Bishop helped renew the monitoring program, which will help create an environmental blueprint for government’s response to storms and heavy erosion while also laying the groundwork for a tsunami monitoring system.

"The economy and recreation of Long Island is dependant on our ability to protect our shoreline," said Bishop. "This legislation will go a long way towards making sure the Army Corps has the resources and modernized project planning it needs."

The Water Resources Development Act governs the operations of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is responsible for protecting all of America's shorelines and navigable waterways, in addition to implementing ecosystem restoration projects, flood control efforts and disaster relief.

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