



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO MAINTAIN U.S. SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

Bills would benefit researchers at Brookhaven National Lab, Stony Brook University, and increase math and science teachers

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop applauded the House passage of two important pieces of legislation this week to help the United States maintain its leadership in the global economy. The bills were passed in response to an alarming report from the National Academy of Sciences entitled, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, which found that the U.S. stands to lose its competitive advantage in the international economy unless immediate action is taken.

“America didn't become the global economic and scientific leader by accident, and we won't maintain our edge by resting on our laurels,” said Bishop. “Scientific technology and innovation are driving the global economy like never before, and we need to do more than ever to stay ahead. The legislation passed by the House will enable more American students and researchers to succeed, opening the way for future discoveries and breakthroughs, so America can continue to be a world leader for generations to come. ”

The first bill, H.R. 363, the "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act," is designed to strengthen research and innovation here at home. The bill was passed by the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. Long Island institutions such as Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University stand to benefit from this legislation.

Specifically, H.R. 363 would increase support for long-term scientific research, and encourage young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk/high-reward research. The bill administers awards to outstanding early-career researchers in academia and in nonprofit research organizations; provides graduate research assistantships in areas of national need; and establishes a national coordination office to prioritize university and national research infrastructure needs. In addition, the bill authorizes a program at the National Science Foundation that awards grants of at least \$80,000 per year over five years to help researchers pursue innovative or transformative research.

“This type of support will enable our best young scientific minds to pursue innovative research opportunities that resonate with the national interest,” said Dr. R. David Bynum, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology at Stony Brook University and Director of Long Island Group Advancing Science Education. “To remain competitive in this increasingly interconnected and interdisciplinary world, it is imperative that our country strongly encourages and supports our scientific and technological creativity.”

Bishop also applauded the House passage of the second bill, H.R. 362, the “10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act,” which enacts the foremost recommendation of the *Gathering Storm* report: improve K-12 math and science education. The bill would train thousands of additional math and science teachers.

The *Gathering Storm* report found that in 2000, more than 85% of students in grades 5-9 were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the physical sciences. In 1999, 68% of U.S. 8th grade students received instruction from a mathematics teacher who did not hold a degree or certification in mathematics.

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