



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

JULY 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: WILL JENKINS

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF BILL TO EASE PASSPORT BACKLOG

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-01) applauded passage of legislation in the House of Representatives to ease the backlog that has made it difficult for Americans to receive passports. The legislation was unanimously approved by the House on Monday.

"I am pleased that my Long Island office has been able to assist over 500 constituents with a perfect batting average—no one missed their trip," Bishop said. "This common sense legislation will make it easier for the State Department to process applications, so travelers can spend more time at their summer destinations and not waiting in unnecessary lines."

Passport requests skyrocketed following the implementation of a new law requiring Americans traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda to hold a passport. The increase has resulted in significant delays with many waiting several months to receive a passport.

The Passport Backlog Reduction Act allows the State Department to hire retired former employees who are trained and authorized to process passport applications. Specifically, the legislation approved by the House waives current wage and hourly limits so that retired State Department employees may return to work and help ease the passport shortage.

Bishop's office has already responded to more than 300 requests, assisting over 500 constituents who have had difficulty obtaining passports this summer. Any resident of the First Congressional District needing assistance with a delayed passport application is invited to contact Bishop's office at (631) 696-6500.

#