



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP: PASSAGE OF 9-11 COMMISSION BILL A MAJOR STEP IN WINNING WAR ON TERRORISM

Security recommendations finally passed after three years of delays

Washington, DC – On Friday, July 27, Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-1) joined a majority in the House of Representatives to support legislation that will make America safer by finally enacting the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. The Conference Report on H.R. 1, “Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007,” was passed by a vote of 371-40. The conference report was passed last Thursday by the Senate and will now go to the President for his signature.

“The 9/11 Commission gave us a non-partisan blueprint for how to wage and win the Global War on Terrorism,” said Bishop. “This conference report helps us meet the unresolved challenges we have faced over the past three years since the commission issued its recommendations by expanding cargo screening at our ports, making air travel safer, and taking many other important steps to protect America from terrorism.”

In July 2004, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission submitted its recommendations to Congress on how to better protect America from terrorism. Unfortunately, for the next two and a half years, the GOP-led Congress failed to enact most of these recommendations into law. As a result, the 9/11 Commissioners released a National Security Report Card giving the Republican-led Congress 5 F’s, 12 D’s, and 2 “incompletes” in categories including airline passenger screening and improving first responders’ communication systems. Congressman Bishop and his Democratic colleagues have made enacting these recommendations a high priority.

“I firmly believe this legislation represents the single most important measure we can take to prevent future terrorist attacks,” said Bishop. “Our nation will be safer from terrorism as will future generations of Americans.”

This conference report has strong provisions to better protect America from terrorism – ranging from ensuring that first responders have the equipment they need to strengthening efforts to prevent WMDs from falling into terrorist hands. The measure will require full scanning of U.S.-bound seaborne containers before they leave foreign ports within five years and also requires full screening of cargo on passenger aircraft within three years.

The measure follows the release of the new National Intelligence Estimate, which states that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network has been able to restore key capabilities for launching another attack on U.S. soil.

"I am proud to represent many of the brave first responders who answered the call on September 11th, 2001," said Bishop. "I believe that this conference report honors the memory of the victims and rescue personnel who fell on that tragic day."

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