



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP URGES IRS TO HELP WORKERS AT BROOKHAVEN CENTER

Entire Long Island Congressional Delegation, NY Senators, Co-Signs Bishop Letter

Washington— Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today urged the acting head of the Internal Revenue Service to help workers who are slated to lose their jobs this January when the Brookhaven Service Center is scheduled to close. In a letter co-signed by the entire Long Island congressional delegation, including Senators Clinton and Schumer, Bishop lays out a number of options to help the workers.

“We believe the most important step you could take is to postpone any reduction in force until the expiration of the lease in August of 2005,” Bishop wrote in the letter to Robert Wenzel, Acting Commissioner of the IRS. “Fairness requires a more measured approach to changes in the federal workforce at the Brookhaven Service Center.”

“I am proud that the entire Long Island delegation has joined me to fight together for the rights of our workers,” Bishop said.

In recent months, Bishop has had several meetings with employees at the center in addition to meeting with the IRS. Based on his discussions with the employees, Bishop has developed several recommendations that the Long Island delegation supports:

- Keeping the facility open through the close of the lease in August, 2005. This would allow many additional workers to secure jobs as openings become available through natural attrition and allow addition time to secure new employment;
- Increasing the workers’ ability to find new employment by allowing them increased access to job training workshops as well as time and resources to devote to job searches;
- Giving laid-off workers favored status for customer service representative and compliance department positions.

Bishop reminded the IRS that in the current tough economic climate, particularly in New York, that we need to do everything we can to help these employees to find new jobs.

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