



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP SECURES FUNDS TO DREDGE MATTITUCK INLET

Work to Likely Begin in October

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced that he has secured the funding to dredge Mattituck Inlet beginning this October. Bishop secured \$700,000 for dredging work in the Fiscal Year '04 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which was passed by the House Appropriations Committee today. Mattituck Inlet has not been dredged since 1990, creating an unsafe situation.

“Dredging Mattituck Inlet is vital to the safety and economy of the North Fork,” Bishop said. “I am especially glad to secure this funding in my first opportunity to do so.”

As a freshman Congressman, this was Bishop’s first opportunity to secure funding to dredge Mattituck Inlet. The money is included in the Fiscal Year '04 budget, which begins on October 1. Bishop has worked closely with Southold Supervisor Josh Horton, and other local officials, to identify the needs and then fight for the funding.

In April, Bishop was given a helicopter tour of the Inlet by the Army Corps of Engineers. Bishop credited the ability to examine the situation firsthand with making him a more effective advocate.

“When it’s plain to the naked eye that something needs to be done, that’s when the studies need to stop and the work needs to start,” Bishop said. “Examining the situation close-up helped make me a more passionate advocate for this project.”

“I would particularly like to thank Josh Horton who has been relentless in fighting for this project and in making sure I had all the information to make me an effective advocate,” Bishop added. “Josh is a first-rate advocate for Southold.”

“This is an issue that we began working on within the first weeks of my taking office in a partnership with residents and marine operation owners to address,” Horton said. “This close partnership and the leadership of Congressman Bishop has brought this important issue to life and is getting it resolved.”

“We have spent countless hours lobbying, strategizing and expressing the importance of the Inlet to Southold town’s economy and environmental protection,” Horton added. “I’m grateful that this has been recognized by the Federal government. I would especially like to offer big thanks to Congressman Tim Bishop whose leadership for Southold town has been unprecedented”

The bill must now be passed by the House and Senate before it is signed by President Bush. However, this provision is widely expected to remain in the bill.

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