



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## STATEMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TIM BISHOP STATEMENT ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT JOINING FARMINGVILLE FIREBOMBING INVESTIGATION**

“I commend Attorney General Ashcroft for devoting the resources of the Justice Department to the investigation of the firebombing in Farmingville.

“We do not currently know the motivation of this attack. However, if this is determined to be a hate crime, it should be condemned just as forcefully as if it were a swastika or a burning cross. We must not allow our community to be defined by those who have no respect for the law, and who would place the lives of innocents at risk to satisfy their own agenda of hate. Firebombing a home is an act of hate, and it is an act of terror.

“All human beings are entitled to basic freedoms-freedom from fear, freedom from oppression and freedom from harm. No one has the right to take away that basic human dignity.

“When the perpetrator of this horrific crime is caught, they deserve the harshest possible sentence. And if the motivation is hate, then I will urge the Justice Department to prosecute this criminal under federal civil rights laws.”

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