

Washington, DC - After ten months of intense work, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today secured an agreement between top House and Senate defense leaders to include over \$100 million in the fiscal year 2010 defense appropriations bill for the continuation of the mission systems work on Lockheed Martin's VH-71 presidential helicopter program. Hinchey, who is a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, secured \$485.2 million in the House's version of the bill that was approved in July to continue all aspects of the development of the helicopter program. The Senate did not include the funds for the VH-71 program in its version of the bill and for months Hinchey aggressively made the argument for why the Senate should go along with the House funding level in the final, reconciled version of the bill. Unfortunately, the Senate strongly resisted the House position, contrary to all the facts that support it. The resulting agreement paves the way for the House and Senate to give final approval of the funds next week.

"Although I was not able to achieve my complete objective, which was to fully continue all aspects of Lockheed Martin's Increment 1 presidential helicopter, this funding will save about 250 jobs in Owego that would have been lost without it," said Hinchey. "The funding included in the conference agreement will help ensure that \$1 billion already spent to develop the necessary mission systems technology for the next presidential helicopter does not go to waste. The agreement ensures that the VH-71 remains a viable contender to replace the current fleet as the administration considers new options. I will continue to do all that I can to support this program this year and in next year's appropriations process."