

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today won final congressional approval of his request of \$200,000 for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Hinchey who is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, worked to secure the funds for the continued upgrade and enhancement to the basin's flood warning system as part of the fiscal year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. The Senate is due to easily approve the measure in the coming days. President Obama is then expected to sign the bill into law.

"Improving the flood warning system for communities along the Delaware River Basin will help save lives and property by making sure people know when a flash flood is possible," Hinchey said. "I am pleased that I was able to secure this important federal funding that will make a real difference for communities along the Delaware River Basin. Investing money in the warning system now will help save a lot more money down the line with better planning and response in the event of an impending flood."

The DRBC is expanding upon improvements to its flood warning system that Hinchey initially helped fund in fiscal year 2008. These improvements will enable the basin wide flood warning system to be further enhanced and maintained. The funds would upgrade the stream gage network, improve emergency forecasting for flash flooding, increase outreach and flood preparedness education, and improve coordination among the local, state and federal emergency response agencies. The enhanced basin-wide flood warning system will provide authorities with advanced notice of a major flooding event and improve the ability of local and regional authorities to coordinate and manage such disaster situations.