

*Congressman Secured Federal Funds to Study Options for Reducing Future Flooding*

*Youngsville, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Sullivan County officials to announce the beginning of a study that will determine the best ways to prevent and minimize damage from future flooding along the Each Branch Callicoon Creek watershed. The congressman used his seat on the Appropriations Committee to secure \$796,000 from Congress for this and other flood prevention work in the Upper Delaware Valley.

"I am delighted to announce that this study of how to prevent and minimize damage from flooding along the Callicoon Creek watershed is now beginning," Hinchey said. "The study is expected to take 11 to 12 months to complete and will examine the best options to protect Sullivan County residents from future flooding. The Callicoon Creek watershed has experienced increased and dramatic flooding over the past decade, which clearly demonstrated the need to mitigate future flooding events, prevent the loss of life, and reduce damage to local homes, farms and businesses. Today is an important step forward in our continuing efforts to lessen damage from future flooding."

Early last year, Hinchey secured \$700,000 from Congress for the Army Corps to conduct flood mitigation studies in the Upper Delaware, specifically targeting the Little Beaverkill Creek watershed and the Callicoon Creek watershed. Hinchey was able to add another \$96,000 to that funding earlier this year. While this funding was an important step forward, the studies also required matching funds from a local sponsor. Sullivan County has provided the required matching funding and in-kind contributions, which have allowed for the commencement of the Callicoon Creek study. The study will cost \$196,000; half of which is from the Army Corps and the other half from the county (\$65,000 as a monetary contribution and \$31,000 as an in-kind contribution).

The study, which will focus on the Callicoon Creek and a number of its tributaries, will examine options for reducing the frequency, severity and damage from flooding. The U.S. Army Corps will analyze ways to add storage capacity upstream that will lessen chronic flooding in a manner that also protects the ecology of the streams.

"Once the Army Corps completes its works, it will provide tangible recommendations from the

study so that we can understand which options offer us the most effective protections against future flooding," Hinchey said. "We will work cooperatively to implement these forthcoming recommendations. I am currently working to obtain additional funding for the Upper Delaware region, specifically for the implementation of study recommendations from this and the Little Beaverkill study."

While the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has committed to work in the Little Beaverkill as the local partner, Hinchey and the Army Corps continue to wait for the final approvals to begin that study. An announcement for the commencement of that study is expected in the coming months.