

Middletown, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the City of Middletown will receive \$27.8 million in federal funding from the recently approved economic recovery plan for upgrades and replacements to its water and sewer infrastructure system. The funds, which Hinchey announced in Albany with New York Governor David Paterson and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson, will relieve Middletown taxpayers of a huge financial burden associated with a project that has been a longstanding priority for the city.

"It is very satisfying to see that the work we did in Washington to pass a significant economic recovery bill is literally paying off in Middletown and all across New York," said Hinchey, who is a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, which oversees infrastructure and clean water projects like the one being funded in Middletown. "By investing in Middletown's water and sewer infrastructure, we are creating jobs, making the city more attractive to businesses and residents, improving resident's quality of life, and sparing local taxpayers from the significant cost of this important project. This type of investment in America's infrastructure is exactly the remedy we need to help lift us out of this severe economic recession."

Hinchey, who helped pass the economic recovery measure in Congress, has previously secured \$1.25 million in federal funding for the water and sewer infrastructure system project in Middletown. Several years ago, Hinchey obtained \$450,000 in federal funds for the city's new water package plant, which is now incorporated into Middletown's larger water plant revitalization and reconstruction. Earlier this year, the congressman used his seat on the House Appropriations Committee to secure an additional \$800,000.

"The City of Middletown is very appreciative of Governor Paterson for his support as well as Congressman Hinchey who has long supported this important water and sewer initiative," Middletown Mayor Marlinda Duncanson said.

The \$27.8 million in new federal funds announced today along with the \$1.25 million Hinchey previously secured will be used for a variety of pending city projects, including the upgrade of its sanitary sewer lines, replacement of drinking water transmission mains, and construction of a new wastewater facility to replace the current plant, which is out of compliance with discharge regulations. Half of the \$27.8 million in economic recovery funding, \$13.9 million, will be allocated to the city essentially as a grant and the other half will be in the form of a low-interest loan.

"Municipalities across the state and country have been starved of federal resources for decades and this neglect is clearly evident in the aging infrastructure we see in all parts of New York, including Middletown," Hinchey said. "Middletown has been struggling to maintain its clean water services in the face of very old infrastructure that wasn't designed to meet the needs of the number of people it now serves. This influx of federal economic recovery money will have a very significant, positive impact on the city."

The funds for Middletown are part of \$432 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding awarded today to New York, the largest grant provided to a state in EPA history. Governor Paterson's administration determines how those funds will be allocated across the state. Hinchey communicated with the governor's office in the past on the need to make a significant investment in Middletown's water and sewer infrastructure. The city was one of ten recipients of funding today. Paterson will make additional funding announcements in the coming months.