

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that New York state will use \$4.7 million in federal economic recovery funds to replace the Kerhonkson Bridge that runs across the Rondout Creek. Governor Paterson will certify the project, which clears the way for the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be used for the bridge's replacement. Hinchey actively supported and voted for the ARRA in Congress and has made the replacement of the Kerhonkson Bridge a key local priority.

"These federal funds for a replacement bridge will help improve public safety, enhance the quality of life for area residents, and promote economic growth," Hinchey said. "I am grateful that Governor Paterson has decided to allocate part of the state's share of economic recovery funding for this very worthwhile project. In addition to paying for this much-needed bridge replacement and beginning the construction process more quickly, these federal funds will spare local taxpayers from the significant cost of its construction and inspection."

The Kerhonkson Bridge has been in dire need of replacement. Without easy access across the Rondout Creek emergency vehicles have had to take circuitous routes, which unnecessarily risk lives and property. Additionally, the lack of a usable bridge has made it more difficult for business activities and has been a major inconvenience for area residents.

The ARRA is expected to create and save an estimated 3.5 million jobs, including 7,600 jobs in the congressional district Hinchey represents and 215,000 jobs across New York, through various investments that are modernizing roads, bridges, schools and other infrastructure; improving education and health care; and advancing the research and manufacturing of solar and other forms of renewable energy. The measure also provided 95 percent of working Americans with an immediate tax cut.