

*Congressman Secured Federal Funds for Vehicle, Which Will Be Used As Part of County's Mass Transit Fleet*

*Kingston, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Ulster County officials today unveiled the county's brand new hybrid bus. Hinchey secured federal funding for the hybrid bus, which will be used as part of the county's mass transit fleet and serve as a model for future energy efficient mass transit vehicles nationwide.

"Through the purchase of this new hybrid bus, Ulster County is demonstrating that local governments can enhance their public transportation systems in environmentally friendly ways," Hinchey said. "I was very pleased to secure critical federal funding for this hybrid bus that will serve the people of Ulster County well and will also serve as a model that other local governments can follow when trying to meet their transportation needs. It is imperative that we reduce our energy consumption on the local, state, and national level. With a reliable, energy-friendly mass transit system, we can help encourage more people to use mass transportation, which will keep more cars off the road and reduce the demand for oil."

Using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey secured \$242,945 in federal funds to pay for the Ulster County hybrid bus, which cost roughly \$575,961. Hinchey also worked to ensure that the Federal Transit Administration contributed an additional \$217,824 for the bus. The state and county are each contributing \$57,597.

The new hybrid bus will operate on a route that runs through the City of Kingston, the Town of Ulster (including the mall), and then will follow 9W to Saugerties. The bus was manufactured by Orion and BAE, which operates out of Johnson City, located in the western half of the congressional district

Hinchey represents. Ulster County plans to purchase three additional hybrid buses in the next year.

"The new hybrid bus is a win-win for the environment and Ulster County taxpayers. Having the hybrid bus as part of Ulster County's mass transit fleet will reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and save taxpayers money in fuel since this hybrid bus is roughly 45 percent more fuel efficient than traditional diesel buses. I was very pleased to ensure that federal funds were used to pay for the new bus, which spared local taxpayers the bulk of the cost."

Hinchey is the co-author of the Energy for Our Future Act, which is a sweeping, bipartisan energy reform bill. Among other things, the measure focuses on innovative mass transit solutions. The bill promotes the use of public transportation through the subsidization of fares and authorization of funding to build energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly modes of transportation such as light rails and clean buses like the one Ulster County purchased. The congressman said he expects Congress to soon pass sweeping new legislation that will facilitate the purchase of additional hybrid buses across the country.

Hinchey was joined for the unveiling of the new hybrid bus by Ulster County Executive-elect Mike Hein, David Markowitz from New York State's Department of Transportation's Region 8 office, as well as representatives from BAE and Orion.