

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced a \$750,000 federal grant for a traveling exhibition that the Sciencenter in Ithaca will develop to educate the public about inland watersheds impact on oceans. The funds come from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The core audience of the exhibition will be families with children ages 6-12, and children visiting museums with schools.

"These funds will allow the Sciencenter to educate citizens all over the country about the impact humans have on our waterways and oceans," Hinchey said. "By giving a hands-on experience through this exhibit, the public will take away a better understanding of the significance of watershed health and the need to protect our local watersheds. The Sciencenter became the world's first community built museum through the support of the community with donations and hard work and I commend the community for its past, present and future support of the Sciencenter."

The Sciencenter will use this grant to develop a 1,500 square-foot traveling exhibition, called "Here to the Ocean," on how activity in inland watersheds affects the health of the ocean, and therefore the planet. The theme of the exhibition is "What we do here, has an impact there," and the key message that museum organizers hope visitors will take home with them is that ocean water quality is not just a coastal issue. The interactive exhibit will be traveling approximately seven years and has the potential to reach 1.5 million museum visitors in at least 20 U.S. cities.

Sciencenter Executive Director Dr. Charlie Trautmann stated, "We are grateful for this grant from NOAA, which will allow the Sciencenter and its partners to create a unique traveling museum exhibition on environmental awareness, watershed health, and earth systems related to sustainability. Through the grant, the Sciencenter will reach over 1 million visitors at museums throughout the U.S. and encourage them to become better stewards of the environment by protecting our watersheds. In addition, the project will significantly advance our strategy of developing interactive exhibits to promote environmental awareness and environmentally responsible behavior in children."

The Sciencenter is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization that was established in 1983 by Debbie Levin and Ilma Levine, two volunteer teachers who had previously run a hands-on-science program for 15 years at several of the Ithaca City School District Elementary schools. The Sciencenter seeks to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds by inspiring

Hinchey Announces \$750,000 Federal Grant For Ithaca's Sciencenter

Tuesday, 29 April 2008 19:00

them to discover the excitement of science through exhibits and programs that promote learning through interaction.