

Congressman Obtained Final Approval Of Federal Dollars; Project Will Boost Economic Development

Saugerties, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) this week announced he's secured final approval of \$393,760 in additional federal funds for the design and construction of a new water and sewer system on a 3.2 mile section of Kings Highway in the Town of Saugerties. The new federal dollars represent the final share needed for the completion of the project, which will benefit approximately 25 businesses and 20 residences along the stretch of the roadway and help attract new businesses to the area in order to help make the corridor a center for development in Ulster County. Hinchey has now used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to obtain a total of \$2.5 million in federal funds for the project over the past several years.

"These new federal funds will finally enable Saugerties to begin construction on the long-awaited water and sewer system along Kings Highway that will open up this corridor to new businesses and residences," Hinchey said. "Saugerties will benefit greatly from the economic growth the town will experience as a result of this new sewer and water line and the quality of life for residents will improve as well. I'm very pleased I was able to secure a total of \$2.5 million in federal funds for this important project in order to boost the Saugerties economy and to spare local taxpayers much of the cost."

Hinchey previously obtained \$2.1 million for the project as part of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. The total cost of the project is \$5.43 million. The new federal allotment of \$393,760 that Hinchey secured means that less money needs to be borrowed for the project and that debt payments owed by ratepayers will be reduced. The new federal funds should save each household approximately \$200 in their total annual charges (tax and usage) for the project.

With the new federal funds in place, Saugerties officials expect construction to begin in April or May and to be completed by October. The new sewer and water line will provide service to existing businesses and residents who often experience failing wells and septic systems, while also providing service to companies seeking to relocate or start-up a business in the Hudson

Valley. Until now, potential new businesses have been told there is no water or sewer system available along this stretch in Saugerties. Additionally, as trenches are dug along the roadway to accommodate utility construction, the town will be working to provide Internet and cable service to this stretch.

"As we look to further establish the Hudson Valley as a national and international leader in solar energy research and development through The Solar Energy Consortium, the Kings Highway corridor can play a role in the Consortium by potentially being a base for some new solar manufacturing businesses," Hinchey said. "This new sewer and water line will enable us to better attract solar and other new businesses to Saugerties that we otherwise couldn't draw to the town."

The town's plan is to install both water and sewer lines on Kings Highway from the intersection of Route 212 to the intersection of Glasco Turnpike. Saugerties will now be able to bring potable water and important infrastructure needs to this section of town after literally decades of attempting to do so. In addition, the town will also be able to provide better fire protection via hydrants for the Mt. Marion Fire Department, which covers this roadway.

The \$393,760 in new federal funds were included in the final spending bill for Fiscal Year 2008 that Congress passed at the end of December.