

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after learning of specific projects in the Hudson Valley that would receive funding as part of Governor Eliot Spitzer's budget proposal. Spitzer's budget includes: \$5 million for The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), \$8 million for Walkway Over the Hudson, \$7 million for New York's quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, and \$1 million for the Catskill Interpretative Center. Hinchey has worked very aggressively over the years to fund and support those projects.

"I applaud Governor Spitzer for committing \$21 million in state funding for critical projects in the Hudson Valley and encourage the legislature to act on the governor's plan and approve these targeted funds. By investing \$5 million in TSEC, \$8 million in Walkway Over the Hudson, \$7 million in New York's quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, and \$1 million in the Catskill Interpretative Center, Governor Spitzer is demonstrating his commitment to helping spur the Hudson Valley economy. Investing now in each of these initiatives will bring short and long-term economic benefits to the region.

"I've worked very aggressively over the past years to funds and support these critical projects and am very pleased that we have a governor who is willing to step in and support them with state funds. I recognize the very difficult financial circumstances facing the governor and legislature. There are many difficult choices that need to be made and I am grateful to Governor Spitzer for still finding ways to target important state aid to the Hudson Valley. I look forward to working with the governor to realize the full potential that these funding investments will have on our region. I remain committed to continuing to do everything possible on the federal level to help promote and strengthen the Hudson Valley economy."