Washington, DC - Following President Obama's speech at Georgetown University entitled "A Secure Energy Future," Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement:

"I am pleased that President Obama recognized the need to ensure that if any drilling for natural gas occurs, it is done in a way that protects our water supplies. In order to do this effectively, the administration should not get ahead of its own Environmental Protection Agency study on the risks of hydraulic fracturing prior to incentivizing the development and use of our natural gas resources. It would be impossible to develop a proper regulatory framework that protects public health and the environment from hydraulic fracturing without first having a comprehensive understanding of all associated risks."