

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today secured approval from the U.S. Congress of a \$4.3 million increase in funding for two critical programs, which help fund rain and stream gauges that can provide early warning of flooding. The funding increase will boost the efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) and the Cooperative Water Program (CWP). Hinchey used his position as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment, which oversees funding for the USGS, to secure the funding increase.

"This additional funding will help ensure that stream and river levels can be closely monitored so that communities in the Hudson Valley can be alerted if water rises to flood levels," said Hinchey. "Without these gauges, the National Weather Service and other agencies would be unable to predict when floodwaters would crest, putting huge amounts of property and lives at risk. Families who continue to recover from the devastating effects of this year's flooding need to have as much notice as possible for future floods. I'm glad I was able to secure final passage of this provision, and I'm going to continue working to ensure that families in our part of New York get as much protection as possible from future floods."

The NSIP and CWP programs are designed to help save lives and lessen property damage by providing early warning information about rising water levels. Federal support for the program had been reduced as a result of budget cuts in a continuing resolution passed earlier this year, which Hinchey opposed. Since that time, Hinchey has worked to restore funding for the critical program.