

Kingston, NY -- Retiring Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today continued his final tour throughout New York's 22nd Congressional District. In visits with constituents and local officials in Kingston and Newburgh, Hinchey discussed his many accomplishments, but the primary reason for his visit was to say thank you to the area residents he has represented over the past 20 years. Hinchey will officially leave office on January 3, 2013 at noon.

"Despite all the battles won and lost, I wanted to be here today to say thank you to all of you who stood with me as we took on the big fights," said Hinchey. "For these reasons and many others, I am very proud to have represented you in Congress, proud to call you my friends, and proud of what we have accomplished together. You stood with me every step of the way. For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I look back on my life in public service proud of what we accomplished together, regretful that I could not do more and hopeful that you will pick up where I left off, and continue the fight for this region and for what is right."

In Kingston, Hinchey reflected on his career in the New York State Assembly, where he led an investigation into organized crime's control of the waste hauling industry, championed efforts to clean up Love Canal and passed legislation to control acid rain. Hinchey also talked about his long-term effort to rid the Hudson River of PCB contamination -- a fight which he continued in Congress. Hinchey is also proud of creating the Hudson River Valley Greenway, and later the Hudson River Valley National Heritage area -- designations which have increased tourism and access to state and federal resources.

The retiring Congressman also noted his work to restore several local historic landmarks including Kingston City Hall, the Old Dutch Church, Sam's Point, and the Kingston Rondout Waterfront Promenade. Hinchey, who also delivered millions in federal investments to strengthen local infrastructure, pointed to wastewater projects along the Kings Highway corridor and streetscape improvements in Saugerties. The Walkway Over the Hudson, which is seen as one of the Congressman's greatest successes, was jump started by a \$1.3 million in federal investment Hinchey secured. Hinchey also pointed to his work to establish The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), which has created 600 energy-related jobs with many more on the way.

In Newburgh, the Congressman talked about legislation he introduced early in his career with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan to convert 400 miles of Route 17 into federal Interstate 86. The associated projects have created hundreds of jobs. Other Orange County investments discussed by Hinchey include the New York Renewable Energy Cluster, which established a strategic partnership between TSEC, SUNY Orange and Gateway to Entrepreneurial

Tomorrows to create new jobs, develop small businesses and spur economic revitalization. Hinchey also discussed his work to prevent the outsourcing and privatization of jobs at West Point, and federal funding he secured to initiate upgrades at Stewart Air National Guard Base.

On the big national issues, Hinchey said he always tried to stand up for what he believed was right, even though it was not always popular. Hinchey pointed to his opposition to the invasion and occupation of Iraq, votes against the deregulation of Wall Street that led to the 2008 financial collapse, and votes against unfair trade deals like NAFTA that caused the exportation of millions of manufacturing jobs. "Instead of listening to the lobbyists, I listened to the people," he said. "Instead of standing with my political party, I stood with the New Yorkers I was sent to represent."

A comprehensive list of Hinchey's achievements as member of the New York State Assembly and U.S. House follows:

- Under Hinchey's leadership as Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee, the panel conducted a successful investigation into the causes of "Love Canal," the nation's first major toxic dumpsite, and developed landmark environmental legislation including the nation's first law to control acid rain.
- Between 1982 and 1992, Hinchey led an investigation into organized crime's control of the waste-hauling industry that led to the conviction of more than 20 criminal figures, including one for murder.
- Hinchey successfully led the fight, first in Albany and later in Washington, to force General Electric to pay for and clean up the 1.3 million pounds of PCBs it dumped into the Hudson River between 1947 and 1977. Dating back to his days as Chair of the State Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee, Hinchey fought against numerous attempts to delay and narrow the clean-up process, and he worked tirelessly to make sure the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held GE responsible for the cleanup. In 2011, Hinchey visited the upper Hudson River to laud the commencement of the second and final phase of the cleanup as a critical step forward in removing PCB contamination that has plagued the Hudson River for many decades.

- As an assemblyman, Hinchey developed the statewide system of Urban Cultural Parks, including those in Kingston and Binghamton and authored the legislation that created the Hudson River Valley Greenway. He built on this accomplishment later, as a member of Congress, by writing and championing the passage of legislation that created the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, giving the region national prominence as well as access to increased federal resources.
- In his first year in Congress, Hinchey helped to initiate and spearhead the successful legislative effort to preserve more than 15,000 acres in Sterling Forest, the last significant area of open space in the New York metropolitan region and an important watershed for southeastern New York and northern New Jersey.
- As a member of the House Banking Committee, Hinchey's pointed and persistent questioning of Alan Greenspan forced the Federal Reserve Board Chairman to admit to the existence of taped recordings of the meetings of the Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC), the board's policy making body. As a result, the public now has direct insight into the thinking of the FOMC, and the logic behind the decisions affecting interest rates and other important economic policies.
- In 1993, Hinchey and the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan authored legislation designating New York's Route 17 as Interstate 86, in order to bring increased economic activity to the Southern Tier and Catskills regions. After their legislation was passed as part of the 1998 Building Efficient Surface Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (BESTEA-21), the 381 mile stretch of Route 17 was set on a path to becoming I-86, making it eligible for a wide array of new federal funding. The conversion of Route 17 to I-86 will eventually provide a federal interstate connection from I-90 at Erie, PA to I-87 at Harriman, NY. The New York State Department of Transportation is currently planning a major reconstruction project for Prospect Mountain in Binghamton, New York, which will create more than 200 jobs.
- In 1999, Hinchey succeeded in passing an amendment that required the CIA to report to Congress on its involvement in the 1973 coup of Chile's democratically elected President, Salvador Allende. Following the coup, President Allende was assassinated and General Augusto Pinochet began his 17-year dictatorship. The report, now known as the Hinchey Report, makes a clear case that the United States - at the very highest levels of government - was deeply involved in the destabilization of Chile's government and economy over a period of nearly 20 years.

- In 1999 and 2000, Hinchey successfully secured emergency assistance for U.S. apple farmers who suffered severe weather-related crop damage. Without this emergency aid, many apple farms in New York would have been lost.
- As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has secured billions of dollars in federal aid to spur job growth, improve public infrastructure, advance education and the arts, improve health care facilities and services, and support economic development in local communities throughout the congressional district he represents in a wide array of ways.
- Hinchey provided early and key support for the revitalization of the old Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge by drawing attention to its potential and securing the first public funds for what would eventually become the Walkway Over the Hudson. Overall, the congressman directly secured \$1.34 million in federal funding for the project and helped deliver an additional \$2.4 million through the 2008 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The federal money combined with state and private contributions, namely through Robert Dyson's Dyson Foundation, were used to create what has become the world's longest pedestrian/bicycle bridge. The Walkway has attracted more than 1.2 million visitors since opening to the public in 2009.
- Hinchey was one of the first and most outspoken members of Congress to oppose President Bush's effort to invade Iraq. He subsequently became a forceful critic of ongoing operations within Iraq and led the call for the removal of U.S. forces, which has now occurred.
- Hinchey led the congressional outcry against the NSA's warrantless surveillance program that was instituted under President Bush. He requested, and helped successfully secure, the launch of an independent Department of Justice probe to determine any wrongdoing.
- In 2007, Hinchey led the effort to establish The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) -- a not-for-profit entity in upstate New York that brings together private solar companies and research institutions throughout the state to develop new ways to efficiently and effectively develop economically viable solar technologies. The results have been extraordinary. Hinchey and TSEC have attracted numerous companies to upstate New York and helped create more than 600 solar energy-related jobs with many more on the way.
- Hinchey is the primary leader in Congress to protect drinking water and the environment from

the risks of hydraulic fracturing. He is a co-author of the FRAC Act, which would mandate public disclosure of chemicals used in fracking fluid and allow the EPA to regulate fracking activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- In 2009, Hinchey authored the appropriations language that initiated the EPA's current national study on hydraulic fracturing. This is the first comprehensive and independent analysis of the risks that hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water.