

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2008

Honorable Norman Dicks
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Dicks and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We write to urge the inclusion of \$25 million in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2009 (FY 09) as authorized under P.L. 109-359, the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act. In fiscal year 2008, \$5 million was appropriated for Long Island Sound Restoration programs. We are grateful for the Committee's past support and we request your continued assistance in attaining full funding for this Act.

The Long Island Sound Stewardship Act authorized \$25 million for FY 07 through FY 11 to protect and preserve areas along the Sound's shorelines with significant ecological, recreational or educational value. The legislation gives those most familiar with the Sound's precious and diverse resources the tools necessary to continue their conservation efforts, and applies the most effective methods available to identify, protect, and enhance sites with ecological, educational, and recreational value in Connecticut and New York.

This legislation implements cutting-edge conservation techniques that will allow local environmental groups to identify sites for preservation and create an adaptable management plan that will ensure the sites with the greatest value are protected.

It creates a purely voluntary process to protect special places along the Sound, without infringing on the private property rights of local landowners. This will allow community members to become involved in efforts to create a stewardship system stretching up and down the Sound's coastline.

Long Island Sound is a source of livelihood, nourishment and recreation for many in Connecticut and elsewhere. It is critical that we treat it well. This vital and fragile ecosystem has earned appropriated funding at fully-authorized levels.

We certify that neither we nor our spouses have any financial interest in this program.

Sincerely,



Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress



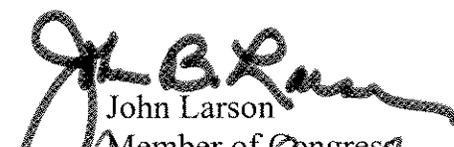
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



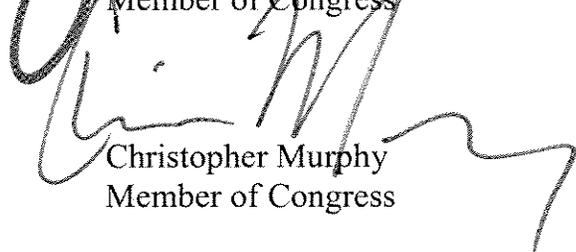
Peter King
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Christopher Murphy
Member of Congress