

## BISHOP PRESENTS \$9.8 MILLION CHECK FOR LONG ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

June 9, 2009



Shirley, NY—Yesterday, Congressman Tim Bishop presented a check for \$9.775 million to the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge to construct an energy efficient Administrative and Visitor Building. The building will be located at the Wertheim NWR in Shirley. The funds were awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, using federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Bishop was joined for the announcement by Claire Goad, President of the Friends of Wertheim, Legislator Kate Browning and Michelle Williams, Acting Refuge Manager of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

“Not only will this funding create local jobs, it will make Long Island’s natural wildlife areas more accessible to the millions of residents nearby,” said Bishop. “The new Visitor Center will help raise awareness of the amazing natural resources that we on Long Island have the privilege to enjoy and the responsibility to protect.”

“This new visitor center will put Wertheim on the map and improve tourism to Suffolk County. It will create jobs for Long Islanders, and the children from our local school districts will benefit with the programs that the Visitor’s Center will offer,” Browning said. “I sent a letter of support for the funding requested by the Friends of Wertheim and I would like to thank Congressman Bishop for responding and securing the funding for Wertheim.”

“Friends of Wertheim NWR are very excited to be getting the Visitor Center/Administration Facility built at the refuge. It will allow us to offer educational programs and workshops year round. Having everyone in one building will be a first for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex and it will make working on projects so much easier,” said Goad. “We look forward to bringing students, scouts, Boys and Girls Club, residents and tourists to the refuge to show them what is literally in our backyard. We want to thank everyone who helped to make this possible and to invite everyone to come and visit the refuge.”

The Long Island NWR Complex protects some of the last significant natural areas for wildlife on Long Island. Located within a major metropolitan area – with over 7.5 million people living within an hour drive of the Refuge Complex headquarters – it is an ideal setting to increase public awareness, understanding and support of wildlife and habitat conservation.

