

Rep. Slaughter Enlists Army Corps to Fix Wilson Pier

Congresswoman Makes Big Splash by Securing \$175,000 to Repair Vital Pier

Washington, DC - Beginning next week, the Army Corps of Engineers will begin restoring and reinforcing the western pier at Wilson Harbor just in time for the summer season. The project is a direct result of a \$175,000 funding earmark secured by Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport) in the FY 05 Energy and Water Appropriations bill in response to requests from local officials.

The pier serves a vital role in protecting the Harbor, but is in need of repair. At times due to waves and high lake levels, water has breached the pier and entered Wilson Harbor. If left unabated, Lake Ontario could permanently breach the pier and cause costly damage to property throughout Wilson Harbor.

Rep. Slaughter said, **"Restoration of the pier will ensure residents, businesses, and boaters can continue to safely use the harbor. This project is vital to protect this recreational and economic resource and continue Wilson's reputation as a great place to live, work, and visit** ."

The project is expected to start on Wednesday, May 25, depending on weather conditions. A crew of seven workers will lay new stone boulders lakeside along an approximately 200 linear foot section where the western pier meets the shoreline. The new stones will be arranged in a manner to absorb the Lake Ontario wave energy, thereby allowing the currents to deposit sand along the coastline. Presently, the currents strip sand away from the beach adjacent to the pier. Reversing this coastal erosion action will further protect the Harbor from Lake Ontario. The project should take three to four days to complete.

Rep. Slaughter's staff and representatives from the Army Corps briefed town and village officials on the Corps' plan earlier this month.

Wilson Town Deputy Supervisor Ed Hastings stated, **"Reinforcing the pier has long been a priority. We truly appreciate the federal investment secured by Rep. Slaughter. This will stave off much costlier repairs that might have occurred if the pier remained neglected** ."

Wilson Village Mayor Tom Bateman said, **"The Corps' plan appears to address this urgent problem. I whole-heartedly thank Congresswoman Slaughter for recognizing our need and securing the necessary funding. There is doubt that in the long-run this will save our harbor** ."