

December 18, 2006 - Slaughter Applauds Coast Guard Decision to Delay Creation of Live-Fire Ranges

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 18, 2006

Slaughter Applauds Coast Guard Decision to Delay Creation of Live-Fire Ranges

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today responded to the Coast Guard's decision to delay the creation of live-fire ranges on Lake Ontario:

"I am pleased to hear that the Coast Guard has heard the concerns of our community regarding its live fire proposal for Lake Ontario," said Representative Slaughter. "Earlier this fall, the Coast Guard agreed to my request to hold a public hearing in Rochester after it became clear that Western New Yorkers had not been adequately consulted on the proposal. Our meeting with Thad Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, helped to convey those concerns to Coast Guard officials."

"We want to secure our coast in a way that preserves recreational activities like boating and fishing, and it is encouraging to know that the Coast Guard understands that and listened to the concerns of local citizens."

BACKGROUND

Rep. Slaughter met with Thad Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, on September 12th and asked him to hold a public meeting on the live-fire range plan in New York. Prior to that request, the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, which Rep. Slaughter co-chairs, had also urged public meetings to take place on the issue.

Concerns with the plan had been raised by Western New York citizens. The current safety zone being proposed intersects areas commonly used by local sailboaters.

At Rep. Slaughter's request, the Coast Guard held an October 30th public meeting in Rochester on the plan, during which Coast Guard officials answered questions from the public and provided further details.

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