

Sue Kelly

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Contact: Kevin Callahan - 202-225-5441 / 914-204-1561

Kelly Obtains \$500,000 in Federal Assistance for Beacon Institute

Congresswoman Secures Federal Funds to Help Build World-Class Science & Technology Center

BEACON – U.S. Congresswoman Sue Kelly visited The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries today to deliver the good news that she has obtained \$500,000 in federal assistance to help the Institute continue building a major scientific research and technology center on its main campus in Beacon.

Kelly wrote a provision into the *FY 2007 Transportation, Treasury, and HUD Appropriations* bill to obtain the half-million dollars for the Beacon Institute. The legislation and Kelly's funding has been approved by the House of Representatives, and is currently pending in the Senate.

Specifically, the federal money secured by Kelly will help construct a new bridge onto Denning's Point in the Hudson Highlands State Park. This new motor bridge over the MTA tracks will replace the current bridge that is small, dilapidated, and unable to accommodate the heavy construction vehicles necessary to build the new technology center on Denning's Point. The Center for Advanced Environmental Technology (CAET) being constructed on Denning's Point is a 40,000 square-foot, world-class research center that will make the Beacon Institute the leading location for the monitoring and study of rivers and estuaries in the United States.

"This is a very important effort of both local and national importance by The Beacon Institute to significantly expand scientific research and education, to develop new and innovative ways to protect the Hudson River, and to create new jobs in our area," said Kelly, a senior member of the House Transportation Committee.

"Likewise, this is a very important acquisition of federal money to help The Beacon Institute in this effort," Kelly added. "This funding will help enhance the Beacon waterfront and develop the world-class research and educational center that will help better protect our rivers and our environment here in New York and throughout the country."

John Cronin, the Executive Director of The Beacon Institute, gave Kelly a tour of the campus and the future site of the Center for Advanced Environmental Technology. "We are so thankful that Congresswoman Sue Kelly had the vision to provide funding for this bridge in the fiscal year 2007 budget," Cronin said. "This is literally a stepping stone for us in reaching our goal of breaking ground on CAET by the spring of 2008."

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Cronin added, “As a member of the Hudson River Congressional Caucus, Sue Kelly’s support of The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries has been unwavering. This time, it is in the form of transportation funding that enables The Beacon Institute to move forward with the building of its major technology center on Denning’s Point, where it will further develop its Riverscope program.” Kelly and Cronin also announced that Kelly’s funding has leveraged an additional \$500,000 commitment from the New York State Department of Transportation for the design and construction plans for the bridge, bringing The Beacon Institute \$1 million in total funding for the project.

“The Department of Transportation is proud to be a partner with the Department of Parks and Historic Preservation, the Dormitory Authority, the Beacon Institute and Congresswoman Kelly to implement this important bridge project,” said New York State DOT Commissioner Thomas J. Madison, Jr. “Helping provide infrastructure for the world-class Beacon Institute exemplifies the New York State DOT’s commitment to supporting technology centers and enhancing mobility in surrounding communities.”

Kelly and Cronin explained that the new bridge will not only allow the CAET construction to move forward, but also will eventually provide a critical pedestrian link between the Beacon Riverside, Greenway Trail, and other trail systems throughout the Hudson Valley. The pedestrian component of the bridge could also provide a new link between the waterfront and downtown Beacon.

The Beacon Institute’s first building will open late this fall on Denning’s Point, and will feature public lectures, interpretive education, a learning laboratory for area teachers, and other public resources. More information about The Beacon Institute is available at www.thebeaconinstitute.org.

“Sue Kelly’s commitment to the Institute and to finding the critical lead funding for this bridge will go a long way toward making The Beacon Institute an important environmental and economic resource for this region and beyond,” said Amy Norquist, Deputy Director of the Institute. “It’s a great pleasure working with Congresswoman Kelly. She is always committed to finding ways to help the Hudson Valley and do well by the environment at the same time.”

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