

Eliot L. Engel
M.C.
Presorted Standard

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I hope that you have a healthy and happy new year, and that the upcoming year is better than the last one.

This report was prepared to update you on some of my work as your Member of Congress.

In the last year I have worked to bring back over \$120 million in Federal funds, grants and economic recovery bonds to Rockland County and its communities. These funds are already making a difference in Rockland and will continue to improve its quality of life.

I have worked to pass legislation to preserve and create jobs, to improve our economy and to make lives safer and better.

My Rockland office has assisted over a thousand people and worked to solve hundreds of community problems. If we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

I could not include all of what I have accomplished and what I have been working on for you in Congress. For more information please go to my website at <http://engel.house.gov>. There is a special section on the website on health care reform.

At the website you can also sign up to receive special e-mail issue updates by signing up for "Eliot's E-mail Updates"

I also ask that you continue to send me your opinions, views and suggestions on the issues facing our nation, Rockland County and your community.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress



Clarkstown Supervisor Alex Gromack, Highway Superintendent Wayne Ballard and Congressman Eliot Engel inspecting resurfacing work on Demarest Avenue in West Nyack made possible by funds in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that Engel worked to pass.

Getting Results for Rockland

A REPORT FROM
CONGRESSMAN
ELIOT ENGEL



CONGRESSMAN ELIOT ENGEL

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For more information on Congressman Eliot Engel's work in Congress go to <http://engel.house.gov>



Engel: "Breast Cancer Screening Guideline Changes Sends the Wrong Message"

"Advising women to be less aggressive with early detection measures may result in some cases going undetected.

"I am certain this is not the intention of the task force, but I fear that may wind up being the result," Engel stated in opposing the changes to Mammography Guidelines by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

Engel, who has sponsored legislation to require insurance companies to cover mammograms for women over forty, and for Medicare to pay for annual mammograms for women over sixty-five, agrees with the American Cancer Society which recommends annual mammogram and clinical breast examination for all women beginning at age forty.

"As part of health care reform, we must ensure that women who otherwise would be unable to have the exams due to lack of medical coverage, or access to proper care can have mammograms," Congressman Engel stated.

There are over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in America who are alive today thanks to early detection, prevention and better education.

Congressman Engel: Extending New Homeowner Tax Breaks and Unemployment Benefits

President Obama recently signed into law legislation supported by Congressman Engel that extended the \$8,000 first-time homeowner tax credit until April 30, 2010, and increased the income limits to \$125,000 for individuals and \$225,000 for joint filers.

The law also extended unemployment benefits by up to 14 additional weeks in all states, and up to 20 weeks in states, including New York, where the unemployment rate is over 8.5%.

Fighting Identity Theft

Engel authored "The Truth in Caller ID Act" legislation to make "Spoofing" illegal. Spoofing is the technology that falsifies the name and phone number displayed on Caller ID.

It is often used to convince people to give up their Social Security and/or credit card numbers and other personal information. The information is then used to fraudulently withdraw money from their banks and obtain credit cards.

Combating Hate Crimes

Engel supported the new law to provide Federal grants to police departments and prosecutors to prevent and prosecute hate crimes, including those based on a victim's race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual identity and disability.

Banning Texting While Driving

The Distracted Driving Prevention Act co-authored by Congressman Engel, has been introduced in Congress. It would provide incentives for states to make texting, e-mailing or talking on a non-hands-free cell phone while driving a primary offense.

Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights

The consumer protection Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights supported by Engel was signed into law earlier this year. Among the protections in the law are banning double-cycle billing, banning over the limit fees unless a person opts in, requiring payments to be applied to the highest interest rate balance first and ending all retroactive interest rate hikes on existing balances unless payments are more than sixty days late.



OPPOSING THE FAA'S AIRSPACE REDESIGN PLAN
Congressman Eliot Engel meeting with new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Randy Babbitt to explain why the FAA airspace redesign over Rockland should not be implemented.

"Instead of moving forward with the defective plan he inherited, I told FAA Administrator Babbitt to postpone further implementation of the plan that would put up to 400 additional flights over Rockland until a better alternative can be developed that will benefit the airlines, travelers and Rockland residents," Engel stated.

CONGRESSMAN ELIOT ENGEL...GETTING RESULTS

Millions in Federal Funds for Rockland

In just the last year, Congressman Engel has worked to secure Rockland and our communities over **\$100.9 million in Federal funds and \$21 million in Economic Recovery Zone bonds.** The funds included:

\$1.6 MILLION IN ENERGY GRANTS FOR CLARKSTOWN, ORANGETOWN AND ROCKLAND COUNTY

Clarkstown received a \$751,300 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help improve its energy efficiency and reduce energy use. Rockland County also received a \$749,300 grant and Orangetown a \$156,000 grant to assist them in reducing energy use.

\$3.27 MILLION HOUSING GRANTS FOR ROCKLAND

Rockland County was awarded three Federal housing grants totaling \$3,273,306 to assist in rehabilitating and creating more affordable housing for County residents and to help towns and villages expand their community revitalization efforts.

\$2.37 MILLION FOR ROCKLAND HEALTH CENTERS

The Refuah Health Center received \$1,388,782 and Community Medical and Dental Care received \$1,057,908 to enable both health care centers to continue to provide quality health services – regardless of insurance and income levels.

NEW SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING TO BE BUILT

79 one-bedroom units for very low-income seniors will be built in Suffern next to existing senior housing. The senior housing was made possible by a \$14,051,500 Federal Housing and Urban Development grant.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS

In October, legislation was passed that included \$300,000 to upgrade and replace six science labs supporting instruction in biology, engineering, and physics.

\$767,000 TO COMBAT FLOODING

The recently passed 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act included \$767,000 for Southern New York Flood Control Projects to reduce the risk of damage from floods such those that affected the Village of Suffern and portions of Clarkstown.

\$5.39 MILLION FOR ROCKLAND HEAD START

Rockland County Head Start received Federal grants totaling \$5,395,455 to continue and expand its programs serving pre-school children. Head Start of Rockland provides services at centers in Nyack, Spring Valley and Haverstraw.

BRIDGE AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Millions in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed with Congressman Engel's support, will be used for bridge and road improvements. The projects include \$15.186 million for the replacement of the Palisades Parkway Bridge over Route 202. Millions more will be used for rehabilitation work on bridges and pavement resurfacing throughout Rockland.

\$35.7 MILLION FOR SEWERS

Rockland County Sewer District 1 that covers the Towns of Ramapo and Clarkstown and parts of Orangetown received a \$35.2 million federal Environment Protection Agency grant. The funds will assist in maintaining and improving sewer services and water quality. He also secured \$500,000 to replace failing septic systems and aging treatment plants threatening to pollute water supplies for over one million Rockland residents.

\$121.9 MILLION in Federal Grants and Economic Recovery Bonds

OVER \$17 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN OUR ROCKLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS



\$17,095,183 in emergency Federal education funding was awarded to school districts in Rockland County to help save education-related jobs, modernize schools, and maintain educational programs including programs for students with disabilities.

"As a former schoolteacher, I know that money for education is the best investment a country can make," Congressman Eliot Engel stated.

School districts will receive a total of \$6,177,183 in Title I education funds and \$10,918,000 in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds.