

### ***Over \$1.3 Million in New Federal Funds Will Address Longtime Safety Concerns on Runway at Long Island MacArthur Airport***

Islip, NY— Today, U.S. Congressman Steve Israel announced \$1.3 million in new federal funds to modernize the runway at Long Island MacArthur airport to address safety concerns. Israel, along with Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan, has been fighting to secure these federal funds to rehabilitate the runway at MacArthur airport to ensure safe aircraft operations.

“As MacArthur Airport continues to grow, it’s crucial that it has a first-rate runway,” said U.S. Congressman Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Committee. “Islip Airport has become an important economic engine for our community and it is imperative that we address any safety concerns or construction flaws quickly so that the airport can continue to contribute Long Island’s economy. These new funds will ensure a safe, efficient runway for travelers at MacArthur airport.”

“The Town of Islip and Long Island MacArthur airport appreciate the support of Congressman Israel in his work to secure these funds,” said Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan. “They will be used to upgrade the airport’s primary runway and maximize the safety of the traveling public.”

Israel has been a tireless advocate for the safety and modernization of Long Island MacArthur Airport. Earlier this year, Israel led the fight to block an FAA plan to move critical air traffic control equipment from MacArthur airport to Morristown, New Jersey. In 2006, Israel and Supervisor Nolan called on the FAA to expedite the construction of a new air traffic control tower. The tower, which was constructed over 40 years ago to accommodate a much smaller airport, is plagued by an unstable roof and visibility issues. Earlier this year, the FAA issued a contractor "Notice-to-Proceed" on construction of the Airport Traffic Control Tower at MacArthur airport.

In 2006, potentially hazardous cracks were discovered on the apron of MacArthur airport. After Congressman Israel sent a letter to the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation expressing concern over the apron cracks, the FAA announced that it would perform an investigation of the use of federal funds at the airport. In 2007, Israel received the report from the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (DOT) on the apron design and reconstruction project at Long Island’s MacArthur Airport. The report exposed safety concerns related to federally debarred companies receiving public funds for airport construction projects, a practice employed at Islip airport before Supervisor Nolan ended it.

With the new federal funds, the Town of Islip will receive \$ 1,305,705.00 to rehabilitate Runway 6-24 at Long Island MacArthur Airport, Islip, New York. The funds will be used to fix portions of the runway that the FAA determined are in poor condition and require rehabilitation to ensure safe aircraft operations.