

WASHINGTON DC, (2/13/07) - U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congressmen Tim Bishop, Steve Israel, Jerrold Nadler, along with a representative from Congressman Charles Rangel's office today met with Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino, Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano, Chautauqua County Executive Greg Edwards and a representative from the office of Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. The meeting, which was organized by Senator Clinton and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, addressed a wide range of topics including the impact of President Bush's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget as well as many other federal, state, and local issues.

"It was a pleasure to host this meeting today and to talk with the County Executives about how we can work together to ensure that all communities in the state have the resources they need. The President's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget has the potential to severely impact New York's counties, with cuts to the COPS and CDBG grant programs and cuts to infrastructure funding, among other things. I am very pleased that we were able to bring these County Executives together today with members of the New York Congressional delegation to ensure that we are working as a team for our state," Senator Clinton said.

"These meetings are the ideal way to further issues of all sorts that are important to all of our constituencies," Schumer said. "The landscape changed dramatically in 2006 and the New York delegation, especially Hillary and myself, are in a unique position to deliver for communities large and small in New York. From transportation funding, to Medicare and Medicaid, to delivering vital homeland security dollars, there is no question we all need to be on the same page in order to get things done."

"New York benefits from a strong working relationship between federal representatives and county leaders. From my seat on the House Appropriations Committee, I will work with New York's county executives and my colleagues in Congress to deliver for our communities," said Representative Steve Israel.

"This meeting helps make sure that our federal and local officials are on the same page when it comes to fighting for New York's priorities," Bishop said. "We all share a common goal to try to reduce the tax burden that all levels of government impose. As a member of the Budget Committee, I am hopeful that we can craft a budget that does a better job of meeting New York's needs," said Representative Tim Bishop.