

Washington, DC—During a Congressional hearing on fiscal 2008 appropriations, members of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development questioned Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy, about the department's plans for various projects around the country, including Long Island's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Because federal funding for BNL has been threatened in recent years, Rep. Tim Bishop (NY-1), who represents the district in which BNL operates, and Rep. Steve Israel (NY-2), a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, have been working to secure long-term funding.

"Brookhaven National Laboratory is a world-class scientific institution and a vital part of Long Island's economy," said Bishop. "Congressman Israel and I are committed to fully funding the cutting edge research performed by the highly skilled and dedicated scientists who are working hard at BNL to maintain this nation's position as the global leader of scientific breakthroughs."

"As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I was eager to question Secretary Bodman on funding for programs at Brookhaven National Lab that are critical to our national competitiveness in science," said Israel. "I will continue to work alongside Congressman Bishop to fight to ensure that Brookhaven National Lab has the additional funding it needs for this year and next year."

The Department of Energy's Office of Science earlier this year committed to fully fund the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) for Fiscal Year 2007 and provide significant funding to National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS II). A continuing resolution enacted by Congress last month included funding for both projects through September, 2007.

Bishop and Israel have worked to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, currently being considered by the House, allocates \$146.5 million for the operations of the RHIC and \$65 million for the NSLS II.

Brookhaven National Laboratory, established in 1947 and located in Upton, Long Island, is operated by Brookhaven Science Associates for the United States Department of Energy. Brookhaven's staff of over 3,000 scientists, engineers and technicians specializes in nuclear physics research and has received an impressive six Nobel Prizes for their groundbreaking work. Brookhaven Lab's programs include RHIC, the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS), NSLS II, and the Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN).