

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he has secured \$102,000 in congressionally-directed funding for a critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetlands restoration, conservation, and flood reduction project on the Upper Susquehanna River.

“I’m pleased to see taxpayer dollars return home to help restore critical wetlands on the Upper Susquehanna – reducing flood damage and ensuring our natural resources are protected,” **said Arcuri**

. “Watershed restoration is a key part of both environmental and safety measures to make sure our waterways continue to be pristine natural attractions and to reduce economically damaging flooding. Everyone knows just how important the Upper Susquehanna is to our economy and quality of life. Maintaining our local environment – from clean water to diverse wildlife habitats – is absolutely critical.”

\$102,000 – Upper Susquehanna Environmental Restoration in Cooperstown: Funds will be used to initiate plans and specifications for the restoration of wetland areas in the Upper Susquehanna River Watershed. Wetlands restoration is one of the goals in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy. Cumulative benefits from this effort, along with those being planned and implemented by others, will substantially restore water quality and natural resources, reduce flood damage, and create wildlife habitat in the in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin.

“I want to thank Congressman Arcuri tremendously because of the major impact this will have on the area. Otsego Lake is at the headwaters of the 6th largest river in the country and everyone in the area looks at the lake as a tremendous local resource. It is the source of the drinking water for Cooperstown and we guard that resource very carefully. This is also a critical project because almost 100,000 people visit the lake very year,” **said Mayor Carol Bateman Waller of the Village of Cooperstown**

The funding secured by Arcuri is part of the fiscal year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which was approved by the House of Representatives this week and will be considered by the Senate in the coming weeks.

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