

## Murphy Tells FERC to Act on Candlewood Lake Residents Requests to Amend the Shoreline Management Plan

Following up on the unprecedented hearing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) held for residents of the Candlewood Lake area in late September, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) wrote to the agency to ask them to act on what they heard from the hundreds of people who attended the hearing on the lake's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

Contact: Kristen Bossi

(202) 225-4476

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Following up on the unprecedented hearing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) held for residents of the Candlewood Lake area in late September, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) wrote to the agency to ask them to act on what they heard from the hundreds of people who attended the hearing on the lake's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). Specifically, Murphy wants the agency to grant pending requests for rehearing, order changes to the SMP, and provide opportunity for comment for Squantz Pond residents.

"Since last summer, on each visit to the Candlewood Lake area, I've heard loud and clear how frustrated people are with the proposed Shoreline Management Plan and the process by which it was conceived. We face an uphill battle in convincing FERC to change its mind, but if I have learned anything in the process of securing the hearing, it's that persistence pays off," said Murphy.

Murphy secured the September 24 hearing for the greater Danbury area in response to community uproar over the fact that residents of the Candlewood Lake area, local elected officials, former Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, and Murphy had all requested that FERC hold a public meeting on its SMP – and had all been denied. Over the summer, Murphy attempted to address this problem legislatively – he introduced legislation to ensure that FERC allow more public input in future land use decisions, and he also introduced it as an amendment to a comprehensive energy package.

When House leaders scheduled a vote on the Murphy amendment, FERC reversed its decision and agreed to give Candlewood Lake a meeting. On September 24, J. Mark Robinson, Director of Energy Projects at FERC, came to New Fairfield for a four hour hearing, listening to testimony from members of the public regarding the detrimental effects of the SMP.

"I am grateful to the FERC officials who came to New Fairfield to participate in the hearing. Several times during the hearing, Mr. Robinson remarked that he would bring the concerns of the residents to the Commission's attention. I trust this to be the case. The residents of the Candlewood Lake are owed as much, and I hope that my requests are granted," said Murphy.

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