



NEWS From
Assemblyman 1st Assembly District
Marc Alessi

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4466 Route 25, Calverton, NY 11933
(631) 727-0204

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2010

Contact: Marc Alessi
(631) 727-0204

*****Press Release*****

Assemblyman Alessi's bill to curb helicopter traffic passes Assembly

Assemblyman Marc Alessi (D-Wading River) authored legislation that passed the Assembly last week that would lessen noise pollution from low-flying helicopters on Long Island's East End (A.7153-A). This quality-of-life issue has been a problem for years, according to Alessi; in 2008 he sponsored – and the Assembly passed – a bill establishing higher minimum safe altitudes for helicopter flight paths to combat the noise (A.10187 of 2008).

Currently, helicopter operators are under a voluntary agreement to reroute their flight paths, and a complaint hotline supposedly exists for the public to report rogue helicopter flights. Both have proved useless, but Alessi's fight to address this important issue continues. To further state legislative efforts, Alessi is addressing the issue on a federal level by partnering with Senator Schumer and Congressman Bishop to call on the Federal Aviation Administration to make the voluntary guidelines permanent.

“North Shore residents have been plagued with noise pollution caused by the frequent trips of low-flying helicopters traveling back and forth to the Hamptons,” Alessi said. “The noise is disruptive and unnecessary. If signed into law, this legislation would ensure quieter skies and improve the quality of life for East End residents.”

The legislation authorizes the Department of Transportation to prepare a report on noise abatement procedures at certain Suffolk County locations, bringing accountability to the heliports and airports servicing the noise-producing aircraft. The authorized report would show the number of aircraft not in compliance with noise abatement procedures, making the heliports and airports responsible for their role in this issue and helping find a solution to this problem, Alessi said.

“It's important that these agencies be held accountable for following the guidelines set forth so that Suffolk residents no longer have to suffer from the intrusiveness of this noise,” Alessi continued. “And that's just what this bill will do.”