

## Funding bill includes \$75 million annually for West Valley cleanup

- By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald, Sep 28, 2018

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed helped secure funding in the House government funding bill for \$75 million annually for the West Valley Demonstration Project cleanup through 2025.

It is a \$10 million increase from recent nuclear cleanup funding at the site in the town of Ashford.

The Senate must still pass the funding bill with the West Valley allocation to keep the government open until Dec. 7.

With a multi-billion dollar cleanup needed at the site, Reed's Democratic opponent, Tracy Mitrano of Penn Yan, said recently the \$75 million allocation is inadequate.

"She's not talking with people who know the site," Reed replied on Thursday during his weekly media call. "We're proud of our success" in getting increased funding. The funding helps make sure the project is on track.

Reed said Mitrano's call for him to hold out for funding for a total cleanup is "an unreasonable and extreme position. ... We've got to continue to advocate (for West Valley). We have been very successful. We have won the argument."

If the Senate approves the government funding bill with the West Valley amendment, officials won't have to plead for funding each year.

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Reed also highlighted a bill he has reintroduced, the Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act, which he said would provide tax credits to homeowners who use resilient construction techniques when building and renovating buildings in federally declared disaster areas.

This would help those rebuilding from a natural disaster through the use of resilient material designed to reduce future losses of property and life.

The Corning Republican said 19 members of Congress have now committed to vote for a speaker in November who will support House rules reforms to break the Washington gridlock.