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Congressman John E. Fogarty today introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a bill to authorize the construction of the Fox Point hurricane barrier in the Providence River, Providence, Rhode Island. The bill's purpose is to afford hurricane tidal flood protection to the City of Providence and the upper Narragansett Bay area. The Division Engineer, New England Division, Corps of Engineers, United States Army has estimated the cost of the project at \$16,180,000.

Mr. Fogarty stated that the report of the Divisional Engineer on Narragansett Bay contains two separate proposed projects, the Fox Point barrier and the Lower Bay barrier. Due to navigational and pollution problems, the Lower Bay barrier report is not as yet complete and Congressman Fogarty has decided to move now on legislation for flood control of the upper bay and press for authorization of the Lower Barrier at such time as a definite plan has been approved.

In presenting his bill, Mr. Fogarty cited the severe damage both in lives and property which recurring hurricanes have caused in the Northeast section of the country, particularly in Narragansett Bay and southern Rhode Island. "There is no assurance," he said, "that Rhode Island will not again experience a repetition of the hurricanes of 1954 during the coming summer and fall months. The next hurricane season is only five months away. While I appreciate the fact that special legislation runs contrary to

the normal procedure for river and harbor projects, I feel that my approach is justified in view of the urgency of the situation. We cannot afford to lose time in arriving at the actual construction of these projects if we hope to eliminate the terrible damage which these recurring storms create." A plan on paper - a hurricane barrier on the engineer's drafting board will be of no use whatsoever in stopping a thirteen foot tidal wave should catastrophe strike again."

"In my opinion," Congressman Fogarty stated, "hurricane protection is clearly a Federal responsibility. It is vitally necessary that Congress act promptly to give assurance that no time will be lost in meeting this responsibility. We can do this by giving early passage to the bill I have today introduced."