

## Rothman Obtains \$ 1 Million in Funding For Liberty Science Center Expansion Project

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob Decheine

Phone: 201-646-0808

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--Congressman Rothman Secures Federal Grants to Help Prominent  
Scientific & Educational Facility Double in Size --

(Jersey City, NJ) Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced that he had helped secure two federal grants of \$500,000 each to help support the expansion of the Liberty Science Center. In remarks delivered at today's groundbreaking ceremonies at the Center, he said, "This expansion project will enable the Liberty Science Center to grow and build upon its well-deserved reputation as the pre-eminent science education center in the metropolitan area." Other government and civic leaders at today's ceremony included Acting Governor Richard Codey; Dr. Emlyn Koster, President and CEO of the Liberty Science Center; Robert Dougherty, Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees; Jerramiah Healy, the Mayor of Jersey City; and Dr. Alan Leshner, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In his remarks, Congressman Rothman said, "The Liberty Science Center, one of the great treasures of the Garden State, is dedicated to inspiring children of all ages to learn more about the joys of scientific discovery in and out of the classroom. It is gratifying that the U.S. government, and our Congress, have provided instrumental support in helping the Center both in its founding and today with a portion of the funds for the new building expansion. I am proud that I have been able to play a role in obtaining these two \$500,000 grants to help with this important expansion project." The first grant secured by Congressman Rothman, a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, will fund the teaching and learning of science. The second is dedicated to the Hudson Harbor and Estuary Ecological Learning Initiative. "It is critical that residents of northern New Jersey appreciate the incredible biodiversity of our region's wetlands, both along the Hudson River and also in the Hackensack Meadowlands," said Congressman Rothman, who has spearheaded the effort to preserve 8,400 acres of the Meadowlands for its transformation into an environmental park.

In his remarks, Representative Rothman noted the importance of maintaining America's lead in science and engineering, which in turn maintains the status of the U.S. as the world's leader in cutting-edge technology and innovation. Citing the recent book by New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman, *The World Is Flat*, the Congressman has noted that proportionately fewer Americans are earning undergraduate degrees in science and engineering compared to Japan and China, and that U.S. government investment in basic science research is beginning to flag. "The Liberty Science Center will help us reverse that trend as we reaffirm our commitment to science today. It is my pleasure to work with the dedicated Liberty Science Center team and I look forward to many more positive developments in the Center's future," said Congressman Rothman.