

## Mahoney Speaks in Support of Everglades Funding in WRDA

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Congressman Tim Mahoney

Floor Statement on WRDA

April 19, 2007

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Seven years ago, Congress in the spirit of bipartisanship had the wisdom to protect for future generations one of America's most precious natural areas, the Everglades, by authorizing the largest environmental restoration plan in the nation's history - the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

This ambitious plan consists of over 40 projects that when completed would restore much of the Everglades. The plan from its inception was a joint venture-an equal partnership with the people of my State of Florida to share in the costs.

I am sorry to say that Washington has failed to honor its word and live up to its commitment. In fact, to the shame of the Republican controlled Congress and the current Administration, not a single WRDA bill has been passed since 2000. Not a single penny spent!

I am proud to say that during this same period, Florida has spent over \$2 billion dollars to get CERP going. In fact, this is so important in my District that the good people from Martin County voted to increase their taxes to help pay.

Washington's inaction not has not only delayed the project, it has increased the cost by over \$1 billion dollars.

H.R. 1495 includes authorization for the first down payment on 4 of the over 40 projects we need to complete.

In my 16th Congressional District we are going to get the opportunity to restore the Indian River Lagoon.

Stuart Florida, which straddles the lagoon, is the Sailfish capital of the world was built on tourism based on its world renowned fishing. I have seen black and white photos of wagons overflowing with fish. I have seen photos of kids swimming in the lagoon.

It's time to quit talking about fixing it. It's time to show courage and leadership to fix it. To preserve the Everglades for all of America's children.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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