

## Mahoney Introduces Coastal Conservation Bill to Protect Land on Jupiter Island

Bill Gives the Town of Jupiter Island the Right of First Refusal on Coast Guard Land

(May 5th, 2007)

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) introduced a bill today to protect environmentally-sensitive property on Jupiter Island currently owned by the Coast Guard. The bill would give the Town of Jupiter Island the right of first refusal on the land, should the Coast Guard decide to let go of the property. The bill would require that the land continue to be used for conservation purposes.

"Florida is known for the richness and diversity of its environment. This land on Jupiter Island has become a haven for endangered wildlife since the Coast Guard ceased their activities there over sixty years ago. Requiring that this land continue to be used for coastal conservation will ensure that this unique habitat is protected. I will continue to work to ensure that Florida's natural assets are protected for generations to come," said Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16).

Congressman Mahoney also sent a letter to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee asking that they give the Town of Jupiter Island the right of first refusal in the upcoming Coast Guard Reauthorization bill.

The land was originally obtained by the Federal Government in World War II for use by the Coast Guard. However, the property has not been used actively since that time, and instead, has become a critical habitat for endangered sea turtles, birds and other indigenous species, and has certain sensitive land use issues associated with its dunes due to weather.

To ensure long-term protection of Jupiter Island's natural habitat, the bill includes a reversionary clause that would give the property back to the Coast Guard if the Town decides they no longer want the property or do not use it as a conservation area.

Congressman Mahoney has been working to promote conservation and protect the environment in Florida since taking office in January. Most recently, Congressman Mahoney helped pass the WRDA to authorize critical Everglades Funding for the Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand, introduced a bill to protect the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, and sponsored legislation to protect family farms and ranches.

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