

Mahoney Calls for Independent Ethics Enforcement

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) spoke on the House Floor tonight on the need for independent enforcement of House ethics rules.

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Remarks on House Floor

June 5, 2007

I'm Tim Mahoney and I represent Florida's 16th Congressional District.

No party is immune from corruption. Democrats and Republicans alike share the blame for the outrageous ethical lapses that have occurred in Congress. In order to rebuild the trust of the American people and restore integrity to this great House, it is clear that we need to change the way ethics rules are enforced.

While I am pleased that the Caucus will consider legislation to tonight to strengthen the enforcement of ethics rules, I would like to reiterate the need to create an independent ethics office.

We need independent ethics enforcement to prevent the kind of rampant corruption that was condoned in the last Congress, and hold all members accountable for questionable and illegal behavior.

Creating an independent ethics office with the authority to blow the whistle on questionable behavior would introduce the impartiality and accountability that has been missing from the enforcement of House Ethics Rules. It would depoliticize ethics enforcement and get the fox out of the hen house once and for all.

We have all seen the costs of corruption: it erodes the trust of the American people, hurts our constituents, and damages our ability solve the critical challenges facing our great nation.

In order to offer real solutions to the many challenges facing our country, we need a solid foundation. I am committed to supporting efforts to hold all Members of Congress to a higher standard of ethics and integrity. It is time for this body to listen to the will of the American people and establish once and for all an independent ethics office.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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