

## Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka Joins Mahoney at Hearing on Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Mahoney's Legislation Would Designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as an Outstanding Natural Area

(October 23, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Mayor of Jupiter Karen Golonka today testified in Washington D.C. at a hearing on Congressman Tim Mahoney's bill to designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as an Outstanding Natural Area. This designation would protect and raise visibility for the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, while helping it compete for environmental grants. Senator Bill Nelson has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

The hearing was held by the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests And Public Lands. Mahoney testified in support of the bill, H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007, and then joined the subcommittee as an honorary member.

"I thank Mayor Golonka for her leadership on this issue. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is much more than a beacon of light safely guiding mariners around the inlet - it is a monument to Florida's history and our Nation's history and a symbol of home for residents of the Treasure Coast. This legislation would protect the lighthouse and the surrounding area to preserve this historical, cultural, and environmental treasure for generations to come," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

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"The community's sense of pride in the lighthouse, natural area, and river is immense. The lighthouse and natural area have enabled citizens to come together, mold a community identity, and become stakeholders in their community and government. This legislation would ensure that the regional icon of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the land it sits upon - the icon that symbolizes the rich history of the Treasure Coast - will be under wise stewardship in perpetuity. It is simply the right thing to do for our community and the right thing to do for the land," said Mayor of Jupiter Karen Golonka in her testimony before the subcommittee.

[More on H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007](#)

Congressman Mahoney's bill would designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an "Outstanding Natural Area" (ONA). ONA is a congressional designation that was established to protect federal lands. The designation has been used for conservation sites of approximately 100 acres in size that include a lighthouse. Jupiter Inlet would be the second ONA in the nation. The first is at Yaquina Head in Oregon.

The ONA designation would:

- Provide long-term protection of a site containing cultural and biological resources in a highly urbanized part of Florida.
- Promote tourism.
- Create an eastern/Atlantic counterpart to Yaquina Head on the Oregon coast.
- Elevate the visibility of the local community and help it compete for environmental grants.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse has both environmental and historical significance for Florida. The lighthouse is located where the Loxahatchee River and the Indian River Lagoon meet. It is the home to endangered species of plants and animals and other natural communities that are quickly vanishing from south Florida.

The area surrounding the lighthouse was first used by Native Americans over 4,000 years ago. In the 17th Century, Europeans first made contact with the area. Both the lighthouse and the associated Oil House are nationally recognized historical structures.

[Click Here to Read Congressman Mahoney's Full Testimony](#)

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