

Mahoney Delivers on Energy Independence

Florida to Become a National Leader in Bio-energy Production

(December 6, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today delivered on his promise to make America energy independent by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act. This bill, negotiated by the House and Senate leadership, was ratified today by the House with a vote of 235 to 181. This landmark legislation, through vehicle fuel economy standards, Renewable Energy Standards for our electric grid and Renewable Fuel Standards for our vehicles, will make America more secure by reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources.

A key component of this legislation provides research funding for cellulosic ethanol which is a type of bio-fuel derived from using non-food plant material, such as citrus pulp and peel or bagass from cane sugar.

"Florida is the nation's largest biomass producing state and this bill mandates the oil industry to blend cellulosic ethanol into the gas that fuels our cars and trucks. This legislation, combined with the Farm Bill, creates a new industry in rural Florida that will give our children in some of the poorest parts of the state opportunities to have jobs with a future. I thank Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Dingell and Chairman Markey for working with me on this historic legislation," said Congressman Mahoney.

Recognizing Mahoney's leadership, House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming Chairman, Congressman Edward Markey (MA-7) said, "I would like to thank Congressman Mahoney for his leadership in promoting a strong Renewable Fuel Standard. His dedication to reducing America's addiction to foreign oil through using homegrown bio-fuels is the kind of leadership we need to achieve energy independence."

Congressman Mahoney worked with Chairman Markey to ensure that as much as 100 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol will be blended into gasoline beginning in 2009 in the bill the House passed today. This will increase to 16 billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol by 2022. This accelerated mandate will ensure that private industry will begin immediately investing in the research and development necessary to accomplish this goal.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (MN-7) added, "The bio-fuels industry will play a huge role in reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Congressman Mahoney played an important role in promoting renewable fuels when we wrote the Farm Bill this year, and I thank Tim for his leadership in this area."

Also, Representative John D. Dingell (MI-15), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce said, "Representative Mahoney's input was very important to the development of this bill. His dedication and hard work on energy issues has been valuable to our country and I look forward to continuing our work together."

Mahoney's Leadership Promoting Bio-fuels

Since taking office, Mahoney has worked with private industry to develop a cellulosic ethanol industry in Florida. Since January, several partnerships have been announced to build cellulosic ethanol plants in Mahoney's district.

In July, Mahoney addressed the Farm to Fuel Summit in St. Petersburg about the potential of Florida to become a leader in producing ethanol from citrus, as well as how federal legislation will impact the renewable energy industry. In August, 2007, Mahoney served as Honorary Chairman of the 2007 Alternative Energy Summit: Powering Florida's Energy Independence held in Jupiter, Florida, where leaders who are developing solutions to energy challenges convened to explore the role that Florida will play in the field of alternative energy.

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As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Mahoney led efforts to promote research and investment in cellulosic ethanol in the 2007 Farm Bill. Mahoney's work in the Farm Bill related to ethanol included:

Creating an Ethanol Loan Guarantee Program

Mahoney led the effort to create an ethanol loan guarantee program to creating financial incentives for companies to build cellulosic ethanol plants. This will create jobs and a new market for agriculture waste in Florida.

Funding for Ethanol Technologies:

Mahoney successfully fought to authorize \$2 billion in funding for research to develop cellulosic ethanol technologies.

Redefining Biomass

Congressman Mahoney fought to expand the definition of agricultural cellulosic biomass - the feedstock used to produce ethanol - to include agricultural waste, including citrus pulp and peel. This is important because Florida's producers will now be able to participate and benefit from the new cellulosic ethanol programs and requirements.

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