

## Mahoney Helps Jump Start Bio-Energy Business in Florida

### President Expected to Sign Energy Bill

(December 18, 2007)

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today delivered on his promise to jump start Florida's bio-energy industry by helping pass the Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6). The legislation was passed by a vote of 314-100 and will be sent to the President, who is expected to sign the bill into law tomorrow.

"I am proud to have helped pass the most comprehensive energy legislation in American history. This bill will not only secure our homeland, but will help achieve energy independence by jump starting the bio-energy industry in Florida. An alternative energy revolution will help protect Florida's environment and create jobs with a future for rural Floridians," said Congressman Mahoney. "It is time that we put this country in a position to tell the oil cartels that if they don't support America they can keep their oil."

The Energy Independence and Security Act will expand the use of American-grown bio-fuels including cellulosic ethanol from citrus and other agricultural waste. This legislation also increases vehicle fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon in 2020-the first congressional increase in 32 years - and slashes U.S. oil consumption by more than 4 million barrels per day by 2030.

Mahoney played a key role in crafting the renewable fuel requirements in the bill.

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."

###