

## Mahoney's 1st Year in Office: Delivering on Promises

Tackles Homeowners Insurance, Everglades Restoration, Veterans Issues, Bio-Fuels and Other Major Issues

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(Stuart, FL) - After just one year in office, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) has emerged as one of the most effective new Members of Congress, successfully promoting Florida's priorities and fighting for the residents of Florida's 16th District.

"Being able to help our neighbors and fight for Florida's 16th District in Congress over the past year has been a true honor. I look forward to continue serving our community over the upcoming year," said Congressman Mahoney.

In his first year in office, Mahoney has tackled a wide range of vital community issues, including crafting legislation that passed the House to lower homeowners insurance rates, fighting to restore the Everglades by passing the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), working to improve and expand veterans' benefits and to prevent waste of these much-needed funds, promoting cellulosic ethanol to make Florida a leader in bio-fuel production, and much more.

### Mahoney's Top Accomplishments for 2007

#### Protecting homeowners from unfair rate increases and cancellations

Mahoney and Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) introduced H.R. 3355, the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007. This legislation creates a national catastrophic program to stabilize the homeowners insurance market by expanding private industries capacity to cover a natural disaster and helping states to better manage risk.

H.R. 3355 is responsible and fair: it returns stability and competition to the private insurance market. Most importantly, it gives those states impacted by severe natural catastrophes the ability to help their citizens rebuild their homes and lives.

On November 9, 2007, the House passed the Homeowners Defense Act by a bipartisan vote of 258 - 135.

#### Restoring the Everglades by Passing WRDA

Congressman Mahoney helped pass legislation to authorize cleanup efforts for the Everglades and the Indian River Lagoon as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

This will allow funds to be used for the Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand projects, which will enable better management of freshwater discharges in the surrounding areas, and will result in a reduction in the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen discharged into the estuary.

Mahoney helped lead the effort to successfully override President Bush's veto of WRDA.

#### Creating new industries and jobs for FL-16 - Making Florida a Leader in Bio-Fuel Production

Mahoney delivered on his promise to make America energy independent and make Florida a leader in bio-fuel production

through his work on the Farm Bill.

In the Farm Bill, Mahoney pushed to get the definition of cellulosic ethanol changed to help jumpstart the alternative energy market in Florida.

Mahoney helped pass the Energy Independence and Security Act, which includes a substantial increase in the volume of renewable fuels required in 2008. More specifically, the bill would require the production of 100 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol by 2010, with increasing requirements each year.

Mahoney was key to crafting the Renewable Fuel Standards, as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act, which will make Florida a leader in bio-fuel production.

Keeping our promises to the veterans who sacrificed for all of us and served their country

Congressman Mahoney has been a strong supporter of our veterans -- from fighting for funding to build a new Veterans Service Center in Highlands County to supporting the largest single increase in funding for the VA in its 77 year history.

He also joined with colleagues to introduce legislation to help ensure this money doesn't go to waste by prohibiting political appointees at the VA from getting bonuses until the huge backlog of disability cases is reduced.

Reforming Congressional Ethics

Mahoney ran on a platform of reforming ethics and the way Congress operates. Since being sworn-in, he has continued to fight for ethics reform - from voting to change House rules to prohibit lobbyist funded gifts, meals and trips, to leading the debate in support of sweeping earmark reform.

Additionally, Congressman Mahoney cosponsored legislation for the creation of an Independent Ethics Council and has been a leader in his freshman class on this issue.

Mahoney led the effort to reform the earmark process to require complete public disclosure and increased ethical scrutiny.

Providing critical funding for our communities first responders and infrastructure

Congressman Mahoney successfully worked with the House Appropriations Committee to provide millions of dollars in funding for Fiscal Year 2008 for vital area projects that will help these communities ranging from helping our veterans, fighting gangs in our schools, funding critical infrastructure, to giving our law enforcement the tools they need to better do their jobs.

Fighting for our local communities in Washington

Mahoney fought to secure \$50 million to save the proposed federal courthouse in Fort Pierce and move the process forward.

Mahoney is working with the General Services Administration to ensure that the bidding on the courthouse moves forward and construction begins as soon as possible.

Mahoney kept government bureaucrats feet to the fire to honor promises to our community by getting FEMA to reimburse the \$3.4 million to Martin County for hurricane debris removal.

### Protecting Our Seniors by Providing Much Needed Affordable Housing

Mahoney introduced the Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act, which would increase the number of senior housing units, upgrade existing facilities and expand available housing services.

This legislation, H.R. 2930, will give the owners of these communities the ability to leverage the property's equity, access much needed capital and benefit from low interest rates from private lenders. This important legislation passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on December 4, 2007.

### Preserving the Legacy of the Navy SEALs and Their Predecessors

Congressman Mahoney introduced legislation, to honor and preserve the legacy of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors by designating the Navy UDT-SEALs Museum in Ft. Pierce, Florida as the Official National Museum of Navy SEALs and their Predecessors.

It was signed into law by President Bush on November 13, 2007. This was one of 160 bills to become law this year.

### Supporting Small Businesses

He was a proud cosponsor and supporter of the \$4.84 billion in tax relief to small business owners which were included in the Small Business Tax Relief Package.

He also supported additional legislation to help the small business community modernize its entrepreneurial developments and he will continue to fight to make sure that Congress keeps providing small businesses with common sense economic solutions to strengthen America's innovative economy.

### Always available to Assist the Residents of Florida's 16th District

Mahoney regularly holds open office hours, where anyone can come to meet with the Congressman.

He started a "Congress on Your Doorstep" program to ensure that residents are aware of the services his office provides by visiting people in their homes.

Since taking office, Mahoney and his office has responded to more than 50,000 constituent letters and helped thousands of residents with their dealings with the federal government.

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