

Martin County Presents Mahoney with "Friend of the River" Award

Congressman Mahoney Presented with Award for his work on the Indian River Lagoon as part of the WRDA Bill

(January 8, 2008)

(Stuart, FL) - The Martin County Board of County Commissioners presented Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) with the highly respected "Friend of the River" Award today at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting. Congressman Mahoney received this award for his work on restoring the Everglades through the Water Resources Development Act, (WRDA), which brought funding to Indian River Lagoon projects.

The last time this award was presented was to State Senate President Ken Pruitt several years ago. This year, the award was presented to Congressman Mahoney by the County's all-Republican Board of County Commissioners.

"I'm proud of the work the county and our local environmental groups have done in moving forward on cleaning up the Indian River Lagoon. We had a major victory when Congress overrode a Presidential veto to pass the Water Resources Development Act which authorizes \$1.3 billion for the project. This year we must finish the job and go back to Washington and fight the special interest groups blocking our efforts to get the funding to begin work," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

"I am honored to recognize the outstanding efforts of Congressman Mahoney today," said Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith. "We are very grateful for the assistance he has provided. Our award today is in recognition of his efforts, and those of the Florida delegation, in working towards the passage of the Water Resources Development Act."

WRDA authorizes \$1.82 billion for Everglades Restoration and \$1.5 million for the Herbert Hoover Dike. Despite President Bush's veto, Congressman Mahoney helped lead the effort to successfully override this veto and make it law. Prior to the override, Congress had not passed a WRDA bill since the year 2000.

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