

## Mahoney Supports Measure to Permanently Protect Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Congressman Speaks on Legislation to Protect National Treasures

(April 9, 2008)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) spoke on the Floor of the House of Representatives today, urging his colleagues to permanently protect environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas, such as the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and surrounding area, by passing HR 2016, the National Landscape Conservation System Act (NLCS).

Congressman Mahoney has led the effort to protect the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and its surrounding area. Last year, he introduced H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007. This legislation, which passed the House of Representatives on March 4, 2008, designates the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an "Outstanding Natural Area." This federal designation, established to protect public lands with cultural and biological resources, is part of the NLCS.

Today's legislation makes NLCS permanent by recognizing it in statute. If the Senate passes the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007, the Jupiter Lighthouse's federally protected designation would also become permanent-ensuring that this designation could not be eliminated by a future Administration.

[Click Here to Watch Congressman Mahoney's Speech](#)

The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System was established in 2000 by Interior Secretary Babbitt, with a mission to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values. The system includes over 850 federally recognized areas and approximately 27 million acres of National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic and Scenic Trails.

Representative Tim Mahoney

Statement on H.R. 2016 - National Landscape Conservation System Act

April 9, 2008

Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Chairman Rahall and Chairman Grijalva for their continued commitment to America's natural and historic treasures.

Our National Parks, Forests and public lands are among our nation's most valuable resources. In fact, one of our country's most unique National Parks - Everglades National Park - is located near my District. It is important that we continue to protect these environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas for future generations to enjoy.

I believe the bill before us today, H.R. 2016, the National Landscape Conservation System Act, does just that.

The National Landscape Conservation System, and more specifically the Outstanding Natural Area Designation which is part of the system, was created in 2000 by the Department of the Interior in an effort to better meet the management needs of our nation's public lands and historic treasures. In addition to the better management practices the system promotes, the designation of areas under the system helps to spur tourism and expand educational opportunities in surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, just a few short weeks ago the House passed H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act. This bill, which I sponsored, would designate this historic lighthouse as an Outstanding Natural Area.

It is important to note that the lighthouse is much more than a historical marker.

It has become a symbol of the community, woven into the fabric of our culture, even appearing on the Town of Jupiter's seal.

With the passage of this legislation today we have the ability to permanently protect our historic and natural treasures, such as the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, for future generations.