

Mahoney Votes to Support Troops and Require Iraqis to Pay U.S. Back for Reconstruction

Congressman Votes Against Tax

Increase

(May 15, 2008)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) issued the following statement regarding the three House amendments to HR 2642, Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2008 and FY 2009:

"Today, I voted to provide our troops with the resources they need to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This was also a vote for fiscal responsibility and greater accountability. It is time to start making the Iraqis pay for their country's reconstruction and today's vote requires that the Iraqi Government match U.S. reconstruction aid dollar-for-dollar. This amendment also requires the President to reach an agreement with Iraq to subsidize fuel costs for U.S. Armed Forces operating in Iraq. The military should not continue to pay \$3.23 per gallon in Iraq while Iraqis buy subsidized fuel at \$1.30 per gallon. Today's vote puts an end to that.

Finally, I strongly support enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill and co-sponsored H.R. 5740, The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to expand the educational benefits that veterans receive. However, I believe these programs need to be paid for in a fiscally responsible way and I voted against Democratic leadership on this provision. Until Washington figures out how to cut waste and become more efficient, I cannot support a tax increase and I know many of the veterans in my District share my concerns."