

Mahoney Secures Additional Funding for Florida Schools

(Port St. Lucie, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today voted to support the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021), which provides funding to states and local school districts to help them create energy-efficient schools. Florida schools will receive \$294, 332,200 million to help them undertake modernization, renovation, and repair projects.

Bill Will Provide Over \$294 Million to Florida to Create Energy Efficient, Safe Learning Environments

(June 4, 2008)

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"At a time when Tallahassee is making cuts to Florida's education budget, I am working to find federal tax dollars to cover the shortfall," said Congressman Mahoney. "This program is fiscally responsible as it makes our schools more energy efficient and we will pay for it by closing tax loopholes and cutting wasteful spending. For years, Florida has paid more than its fair share to Washington. It is time for Florida to receive its fair share so that our children can attend high quality schools."

Research shows a correlation between school facility quality and student achievement however, investments have not been made to improve America's aging public schools. Billions of dollars are needed to bring them up to good condition. Through this program, schools in Florida's 16th Congressional District will have access to over \$27 million to make these critical repairs.

Overall, H.R. 3021 would authorize \$6.4 billion for school renovation and modernization projects for fiscal year 2009, and would ensure that school districts quickly receive funds for projects that improve schools' teaching and learning climates, health and safety, and energy efficiency. To further encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources in schools, the bill would require that the majority of funds for school improvement projects meet widely recognized green building standards and would provide states with funds to help schools track their facilities' needs, energy use, and carbon footprints, among other things.

In addition, the legislation would bring immediate benefits to workers in the nation's construction industry - one of the sectors hit hardest by the recent economic downturn - and would ensure fair wages and benefits for workers involved in school improvement projects.

For more information on H.R. 3021, [click here](#).

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