

## Legislative Accomplishments: Environment

- Mahoney helped pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), H.R. 1495. Congress has not passed a WRDA bill since 2000. As a result, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) has received zero federal dollars. WRDA authorizes critical funding for environmental projects throughout the country, including \$1.37 billion for the Indian River Lagoon-South project for wetlands and estuary restoration and \$375 million for the Picayune Strand ecosystem restoration project.

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Original

House Passage of H.R. 1495: RC# 234; 4/19/07; 394-25

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Vote on

Conference Report on H.R. 1495: RC# 790; 8/1/07, 381-40

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Vote to override

President's veto and pass WRDA into law: RC# 1040; 11/05/07; 361-54

- Mahoney introduced everglades restoration authorization "back-up" bills to authorize critical Everglades restoration funding for projects impacting Florida's 16th Congressional District in case WRDA did not pass.

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Mahoney cosponsored Restoring the Everglades, an American Legacy Act of 2007. H.R. 617 would authorize funding for Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand. (1.37 billion for IRL, \$375 million for Picayune Strand, January 22, 2007)

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Mahoney cosponsored the Restoring the Caloosahatchee River: A Legacy For Florida Act with Rep. Mack. H.R. 1816 would authorize \$222.5 million to build marshes to naturally filter nutrients from the water.

- Mahoney introduced H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007, to designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA).

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ONA is a congressional designation that was established to protect federal lands; it is used for conservation sites of approximately 100 acres that also include a lighthouse. Jupiter Inlet would be the second ONA in the nation. The first is at Yaquina Head in Oregon.

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Companion legislation was introduced by Senator Nelson in the Senate.

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Original  
House Passage of H.R. 1922: 3/4/08; voice vote

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Incorporated  
into S.2739 and signed into law on 5/8/2008; Public Law  
No: 110-229

- Mahoney introduced H.R. 2113, a bill to protect the environmentally sensitive land on Jupiter Island. The bill would give the Town of Jupiter Island the right of first refusal on the land, should the current owner, the Coast Guard, decide to let go of the property.

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The land was originally obtained by the Federal Government in World War II for use by the Coast Guard. However, the property has not been actively used since that time. Instead, it has become a critical habitat for endangered sea turtles, birds and other indigenous species, while facing sensitive weather-related threats to the dunes.

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To ensure long-term protection of Jupiter Island's natural habitat, the bill includes a reversionary clause that would give the property back to the Coast Guard if the Town decides they no longer want the property or do not use it as a conservation area.

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H.R. 2113 was incorporated into the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, HR 2830

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H.R. 2830 Passed House: RC# 223; 4/24/08; 395-7

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H.R. 2830, Received in the Senate. Placed on

Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Waiting on Senate Action.