

## Legislative Accomplishments: Agriculture

- Mahoney secured a seat on the House Agriculture Committee. Congressman Mahoney is the only Florida Representative on this committee. As the 2007 Farm Bill was drafted, Mahoney made sure Florida had a seat at the table.

- Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, H.R. 2419, The 2007 Farm Bill

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Congressman Mahoney worked closely with Congressman Adam Putnam to draft language that allows all farmers, big or small, to take advantage of conservation programs despite their adjusted gross income. This measure would protect our land from over-development and preserves it for future generations.

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Mahoney worked with his colleagues in the Agriculture Committee, as well as Florida officials and the specialty crop industry, to draft language for the Farm Bill that addresses Florida's needs concerning pest and disease control.

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Worked closely with Chairman Peterson of the House Agriculture Committee to change the definition of cellulosic ethanol in the upcoming Farm Bill. The new definition allows agricultural waste products such as citrus peel to be included as the basis for cellulosic ethanol and jumpstart cellulosic industry in Florida.

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Worked with fellow Florida Delegation Members to block an amendment to the Farm Bill that would have liberalized agricultural trade with Cuba.

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RC# 756; passed House 7/27/07; 132-191

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Vetoed by President, 5/21/08

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RC# 346; voted to override  
President's veto; 5/22/2008; 316-108 (2/3 required)

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Public Law No: 110-234

- Mahoney  
introduced the American Farm Improvement Act of 2007, H.R. 2656

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The primary programs in H.R. 2656 were  
ultimately incorporated into the 2007 Farm Bill:

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Seeks to jumpstart the alternative energy market  
in Florida by  
eliminating multiple, conflicting definitions of "biomass," "cellulosic  
ethanol," and other terms relating to the emerging biofuels market. The  
American Farm Improvement Act also creates and improves loan guarantee programs  
within USDA that focus on building facilities to produce liquid fuels, power  
and other commercial products from cellulosic feedstocks.

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Enhances the ongoing profitability and viability  
of America's  
lands by creating the Farmland Stewardship Process to streamline the  
bureaucracy related to land conservation programs. The bill also broadly  
defines "biomass" so that many of Florida's  
waste products can be utilized in the production of new renewable energy  
sources.

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The bill provides loan guarantees to  
entrepreneurs who are researching ways to utilize biomass products for use as  
sources of ethanol energy.

- Congressman  
Mahoney cosigned a letter with Rep. Allen Boyd on 4/24/07, to EPA  
Administrator Steve Johnson. The letter expressed approval for  
Iodomethane is a viable replacement for methyl bromide, a known ozone  
depleter that is currently being phased out on a global basis under the  
Montreal Protocol, an international treaty.

- Congressman

Mahoney co-signed a bi-partisan letter with 43 other Members of Congress dated 9/21/07 to President Bush to urge him to include drought disaster assistance for counties in Florida and across the country.

- Spearheaded

a House Agriculture Committee hearing on the labor needs of agriculture.

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The hearing featured two Florida producers, Mason Smoak and Rick Roth, who testified to the labor problems faced by farmers and producers.

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Hearing held 10/4/07

- Mahoney

Initiated Congressional Hearings to Investigate Speculation in the Commodities Markets and its Impact on Gas Prices.

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Without effective oversight, there is no way to know whether energy speculators are basing trades on market realities, or are instead cornering the market to make money at the expense of hard-working Americans.

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Hearings were held in front of the Agriculture Committee on June 25, July 9, 10, and 11. The Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over the commodities futures trading.