

## Congressman Mahoney Calls on President, FEMA to Provide Disaster Relief Funding For Areas Hit by Tro

(Port St. Lucie, FL) - After touring Tropical Storm Fay's damage and meeting with Emergency Operations Centers in Charlotte, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced today that he has sent letters to President Bush and FEMA Administrator David Paulison urging them to provide federal funding for areas affected by Tropical Storm Fay. The full text of the letters is below:

### Congressman Calls on President

(August 21, 2008)

(Port St. Lucie, FL) - After touring Tropical Storm Fay's damage and meeting with Emergency Operations Centers in Charlotte, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced today that he has sent letters to President Bush and FEMA Administrator David Paulison urging them to provide federal funding for areas affected by Tropical Storm Fay. The full text of the letters is below:

Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) issued the following letter to President Bush:

August 21, 2008

Honorable George W. Bush

President of the United States

The White House

Washington DC 20202

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to support Florida Governor Charlie Crist's request that you declare a state of emergency for the state of Florida as a result of Tropical Storm Fay, beginning on August 18, 2008 and continuing. I have inspected several areas

throughout my district, and I have seen the damage first hand.

All of the counties in my Congressional district - Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie - have sustained tropical storm force winds. Some have experienced gusts of category one hurricane strength. Tropical Storm Fay has produced widespread, and in some cases, historic flooding in my district. Heavy rains in excess of eight inches have fallen across the Florida peninsula and throughout my district, and several rain gauges have recorded storm totals in excess of fifteen to twenty inches in several of my counties. Given the storm's northward path, I am concerned that flooding in my district will continue as creeks and rivers in my counties swell due to the excessive flow of water from areas north of my district.

The National Weather Service has categorized this event as historic. Flash flood warnings and impacts to homes, businesses, and infrastructure have been ongoing for several days. Excessive rainfall, flooding, and sustained winds have also resulted in significant agricultural losses to growers in several of my counties. These growers are currently in the process of harvesting their crops, and the rainfall produced by Tropical Storm Fay may jeopardize entire crops.

Excessive rainfall has also posed significant problems for sewer and water treatment plants in several of my counties. A large number of private water wells have experienced contamination from the overflow of septic tanks. Health inspectors have been deployed to assist local health officials with inspections. Also, the storm's sustained force wind and tidal activity have resulted in excessive beach erosion along the eastern coast of my district.

I would appreciate your timely attention to Governor Crist's request. I stand ready to work with federal entities as they provide valuable assistance to the residents of my Congressional district and other parts of Florida.

Sincerely,

Tim Mahoney