

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) successfully secured \$44,656,000 for the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) in the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, which passed the House today with strong bipartisan support. This critical legislation also included an additional \$2 million for other Citrus Health projects in Florida.

“The citrus industry is crucial to the economy in the 16th district and the entire state of Florida and we must continue to work to ensure its survival,” said Rooney. “This vital Citrus Health Response Program funding will help the citrus industry combat the devastation caused by canker and greening.”

The FY 2010 funding is a \$9 million increase over last year’s level and will fund various research and health programs in all citrus producing states. The Florida citrus industry has suffered greatly over the past few years from pests and diseases such as citrus canker and greening. The CHRP funding will help sustain the United States’ citrus industry, to maintain growers’ continued access to export markets, and to safeguard citrus growing states against a variety of citrus pests, diseases and disease vectors. CHRP is a unique collaborative effort involving growers, federal and state regulatory personnel and researchers.

In Florida alone, commercial citrus is a \$9 billion a year industry that supports almost 90,000 jobs. Rep. Rooney is working closely with industry leaders and federal agencies to ensure the industry’s survival in Florida.