

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) successfully secured vital Everglades funding and other projects on the Treasure Coast in a critical House appropriations bill. The House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill which includes funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete various projects throughout the district.

Projects included in the House bill include:

\$130,000,000 for the Herbert Hoover Dike: The earthen dike which surrounds Lake Okeechobee has been damaged by decades of storms and erosion. Rooney submitted a request and worked with the Committee to ensure adequate funding for the continued rehabilitation of the Dike.

\$210,239,000 for the South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration: Approximately \$22,000,000 in construction dollars is designated for the Indian River Lagoon- South (IRL-South) plan which was requested by Rooney. The IRL-South project, authorized in the WRDA 2007 legislation, consists of a series of water treatment and storage structures aimed at cleaning and restoring the Lagoon.

\$350,000 for the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County: The Inlet has been undergoing rehabilitation to help improve its safety and navigation. This funding will go towards dredging the inlet to ensure the channel remains navigable.

\$350,000 for the Hutchinson Island shore protection project in Martin County: These funds will assist Martin County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to locate and permit a new sand source for ongoing and future shore protection projects.

\$1,000,000 St. Lucie County Beach Re-nourishment Feasibility Study: Rooney requested these funds for this federally authorized project that would fund an ongoing study of the critically eroded beaches in St. Lucie County.

“The funding in this legislation is critical for several federally-authorized projects on the Treasure Coast,” said Rooney. “These projects will help create jobs and restore the Indian River Lagoon and the Everglades which are both vital to South Florida. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on as this legislation as we move forward.”

The Senate will next consider its version of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Representative Rooney will work with fellow House members and our Florida Senators to ensure these projects are included in the final bill.