

Washington, D.C. – Today Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) was successful in having \$43.6 million in critical funding for the Florida citrus industry included in the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill. Rooney made funding the Citrus Health Research Program (CHRP) a top priority of his in this Congress.

“The citrus industry provides jobs and plays a vital role in Florida’s economy, particularly in the 16th district,” said Rooney. “CHRP provides necessary research funding to combat the devastation caused by citrus canker and greening. With the economy struggling in Florida we cannot afford to lose the valuable jobs the industry provides for our state.”

The goal of CHRP is to 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 committed to ensuring the industry’s survival in Florida.

The appropriations bill is headed to the Senate for consideration. Rooney will work to ensure the funding is included in the final bill.