House Concurrent Resolution

A concurrent resolution urging prompt action by
the Governing Board of the South Florida Water

Management District in issuing permits to allow
redevelopment of property at the site of the
former Homestead Air Force Base.

WHEREAS, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the South Dade community, and

WHEREAS, South Dade's three major economic catalysts, agriculture, tourism, and the Homestead Air Force Base, were decimated, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the destruction brought upon the base facilities, the Federal Government decided to close a portion of the military property, which became surplus federal property, and

WHEREAS, the Dade County civic, business, and governmental community joined together to create a model reuse plan for civilian use of the property as a commercial aviation facility and petitioned the Federal Government to designate Dade County government as a reuse authority for that purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government accepted Dade County's request to convey the property to the local government for redevelopment, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, understanding the urgency of redeveloping this major economic catalyst, created an expedited land use plan process in 1994 embodied in chapter 288, Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the two other main economic catalysts, agriculture and tourism, have yet to reach economic levels

existing before Hurricane Andrew, thereby making redevelopment of the base property a more pressing need to revitalize a still stagnant economy, and

WHEREAS, recent decisions by the Federal Government dealing with welfare and immigration reform threaten to create an economic crisis in Dade County, where job creation and economic development will become the most important priority of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, in the first 15 years of development of the project, the reuse of Homestead Air Force Base may generate in excess of 6,000 direct jobs, 12,000 indirect jobs, and 10,000 induced jobs, and

WHEREAS, failure to create adequate employment opportunities in South Dade will lead to further depression of the local economy, an increase in crime, and a greater need for local and state welfare and social service assistance, and

WHEREAS, Dade County has conducted numerous studies that indicate that redevelopment can occur in a prudent, responsible fashion that balances the needs of economic development and environmental protection, and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Dade County has applied for permits before the South Florida Water Management District to allow initial development activity while further environmental protection measures are studied and implemented, and

WHEREAS, this initial development activity will not result in intensity of use or impacts at or above the levels that existed before closure in 1992, and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District and all other state and local agencies have a responsibility consistent with their statutory duties to assist local

government in expediting projects of great significance and economic benefit to the local community, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, the Senate Concurring:

That the Florida Legislature strongly urges the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board to expedite the permitting process for development of initial facilities on the property of the former Homestead Air Force Base so that Metropolitan Dade County can commence its efforts to revitalize the economy of south Dade County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District and to each member of the district's governing board.