Florida House of Representatives - 1998 By Representative Bullard

1 House Memorial 2 A memorial urging the Federal Government to 3 proceed expeditiously with the transfer of surplus lands located at Homestead Air Force 4 5 Base. 6 7 WHEREAS, in August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated 8 the South Dade community, and 9 WHEREAS, South Dade's three major economic catalysts, 10 agriculture, tourism, and the Homestead Air Force Base, were 11 decimated, and 12 WHEREAS, as a result of the destruction brought upon 13 the base facilities, the Federal Government decided to close a 14 portion of the military property, which became surplus federal 15 property, and 16 WHEREAS, the Dade County civic, business, and governmental community joined together to create a model reuse 17 18 plan for civilian use of the property as a commercial aviation facility and petitioned the Federal Government to designate 19 20 Dade County government as a reuse authority for that purpose, 21 and 22 WHEREAS, the Federal Government accepted Dade County's request to convey the property to the local government for 23 24 redevelopment, and 25 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, understanding the urgency of redeveloping this major economic catalyst, created 26 27 an expedited land use plan process in 1994 embodied in chapter 28 288, Florida Statutes, and 29 WHEREAS, the two other main economic catalysts, agriculture and tourism, have yet to reach economic levels 30 31 existing before Hurricane Andrew, thereby making redevelopment 1

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1 of the base property a more pressing need to revitalize a 2 still stagnant economy, and 3 WHEREAS, recent decisions by the Federal Government 4 dealing with welfare and immigration reform threaten to create 5 an economic crisis in Dade County, where job creation and б economic development will become the most important priority 7 of our citizens, and 8 WHEREAS, in the first 15 years of development of the 9 project, the reuse of Homestead Air Force Base may generate in excess of 6,000 direct jobs, 12,000 indirect jobs, and 10,000 10 11 induced jobs, and 12 WHEREAS, failure to create adequate employment 13 opportunities in South Dade will lead to further depression of 14 the local economy, an increase in crime, and a greater need for local and state welfare and social service assistance, and 15 16 WHEREAS, Dade County has conducted numerous studies that indicate that redevelopment can occur in a prudent, 17 responsible fashion that balances the needs of economic 18 development and environmental protection, and 19 20 WHEREAS, Metropolitan Dade County has applied for 21 permits before the South Florida Water Management District to 22 allow initial development activity while further environmental protection measures are studied and implemented, and 23 24 WHEREAS, this initial development activity will not result in intensity of use or impacts at or above the levels 25 26 that existed before closure in 1992, and 27 WHEREAS, the Federal Government and the Department of 28 Defense are still evaluating the final conveyance application 29 by Metropolitan Dade County, and 30 31

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1 WHEREAS, a prompt and positive decision on the 2 conveyance is necessary to begin construction and economic 3 activity at base property, and 4 WHEREAS, the Federal Environmental Impact Statement 5 completed in 1994 regarding the reuse activity contemplates б all the uses and activities that will occur during the initial 7 phases of development, and 8 WHEREAS, the Federal Government, consistent with its 9 Environmental Impact Statement, should allow expedited redevelopment of the initial facilities contemplated at the 10 11 base to proceed while further studies are conducted to 12 determine long-range impacts of future phases of development, 13 NOW, THEREFORE, 14 15 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 16 That the Florida Legislature strongly urges the Federal 17 Government and the Department of Defense to proceed 18 19 expeditiously with the conveyance of surplus Homestead Air 20 Force Base property in order to create the conditions 21 necessary to permit expedited redevelopment and generation of 22 jobs and economic activity in south Dade County. 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be 24 dispatched to the the President of the United States Senate, 25 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 26 each member of the Florida delegation to the United States 27 Congress, and the Secretary of Defense. 28 29 30 31

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