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House Memorial

A memorial to the President of the United States supporting in part and opposing in part the nomination of the entire St. Johns River for federal designation as an American Heritage River.

WHEREAS, the American Heritage Rivers Initiative is a program created by Executive Order 13061, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13061 states that the American Heritage Rivers Initiative has the objectives of natural resource and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation, and

WHEREAS, an application was submitted by the City of Jacksonville on December 7, 1997, to designate the entire St. Johns River, a river stretching 310 miles in length, an American Heritage River, and

WHEREAS, the primary point of contact for the nominating organization resides in Duval County, and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River runs through 12 counties and numerous diverse communities with different environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational concerns and needs, and

WHEREAS, numerous county commissions and state and federal legislators representing certain counties along the St. Johns River have expressed their opposition to designating the entire St. Johns River as an American Heritage River, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government describes the American Heritage Rivers initiative as being a locally driven initiative; however, the Federal Government provides virtually no options for counties opposing such a designation to opt out of an American Heritage River designation, NOW, THEREFORE,

1 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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3 That the Florida House of Representatives opposes the
4 entire application to designate St. Johns River as an American
5 Heritage River.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
7 dispatched to the President of the United States.

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