



HM 0575

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CHAMBER ACTION

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The Committee on Procedures recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to enact legislation to halt dredging on the Apalachicola River, to continue authority of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's navigation channel markings and lock system for recreational boating, and to provide for the restoration and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources and habitats of the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay.

WHEREAS, Florida's Apalachicola River has been designated by the State of Florida as an outstanding Florida Water, and

WHEREAS, the Apalachicola Bay has been designated by the United States as a National Estuarine Research Reserve and by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve, and

WHEREAS, the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay are the cornerstones to the economy of six Florida counties and



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29 provide thousands of jobs in commercial fishing, recreational
30 fishing, and ecotourism to Floridians, and

31 WHEREAS, Apalachicola Bay provides nearly 90 percent of
32 Florida's oysters and over 10 percent of the nation's oysters,
33 and

34 WHEREAS, the health and productivity of the Apalachicola
35 River and the bay into which it flows are dependent upon the
36 amount and quality of water that flows into and out of the
37 river, and

38 WHEREAS, the Apalachicola River has been subject to
39 navigational dredging performed by the United States Army Corps
40 of Engineers that has resulted in environmental harm, including
41 degraded water quality, loss of productive bottomland, hardwood
42 habitat, and damaged fish habitat, and

43 WHEREAS, the dredging of the Apalachicola River is not
44 economically efficient in that the Federal Government spends an
45 estimated \$20 million a year to maintain the river for barge
46 traffic, which amounts to an expenditure of approximately
47 \$30,000 per barge, and

48 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the State of
49 Florida finds that the cessation of dredging on the Apalachicola
50 River, the continuation of the authority of the United States
51 Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's
52 navigation channel markings and lock system for recreational
53 boating, and the restoration and maintenance of fish and
54 wildlife resources and habitats of the Apalachicola River and
55 Apalachicola Bay are essential to the continued ecological and
56 economic health and well-being of the region, NOW, THEREFORE,



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

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60 That the Legislature of the State of Florida hereby urges
61 Congress to enact legislation to halt dredging on the
62 Apalachicola River, to continue the authority of the United
63 States Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of the
64 river's navigation channel markings and lock system for
65 recreational boating, and to provide for the restoration and
66 maintenance of fish and wildlife resources and habitats of the
67 Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay.

68

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
70 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President
71 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
72 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida
delegation to the United States Congress.