

HM 0031E

2003

House Memorial

A memorial to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, urging prompt action to complete the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on schedule.

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America and is recognized for national significance in the National Estuary Program, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon have been and continue to be severely degraded by excessive freshwater discharges, nutrients, and sediments from drainage canals constructed by the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long history of supporting local, state, and federal programs to improve the environmental health of the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, which health is critical to the economic and social environment of Florida and the nation, and

WHEREAS, state support includes forming and funding the St. Lucie River Issues Team, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Task Force, and 50 percent of the costs of related Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, and

WHEREAS, local government partners, including the Nine County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, are implementing urban stormwater quality retrofit projects budgeted at over \$100 million dedicated to cleaning up the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, and

WHEREAS, local voters voluntarily approved a special sales tax referendum for healthy rivers that raised over \$50 million

HM0031E

2003

31 to help buy the land necessary to implement the Indian River
 32 Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

33 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has enthusiastically endorsed
 34 the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

35 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, after
 36 numerous bureaucratic delays, is ready for Congressional
 37 authorization and construction, and

38 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States deserve the
 39 prompt authorization and construction of the Indian River Lagoon
 40 Restoration Plan, the first major component of the Comprehensive
 41 Everglades Restoration Plan, NOW, THEREFORE,

42
 43 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44
 45 That the State of Florida urges the United States Army
 46 Corps of Engineers to complete work on the Indian River Lagoon
 47 Restoration Plan and forward it to Congress for authorization as
 48 rescheduled in August 2003 and urges federal officials to keep
 49 the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on schedule and present
 50 it without further delay for Congressional authorization in
 51 2004.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 53 dispatched to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to the
 54 President of the United States, to the President of the United
 55 States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of
 56 Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to
 57 the United States Congress.