

HR 1045

2004

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 31, 2004, as "Local Water
3 Sources First Day," supporting the continued inclusion of
4 the local water sources first policy in chapter 373,
5 Florida Statutes, and opposing any amendment to the
6 state's water resource policy which allows, encourages, or
7 promotes water transfers.

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9 WHEREAS, Florida's water resources are a natural resource
10 and not a commodity to be sold or transferred to the highest
11 bidder, and

12 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives supports the
13 local water sources first policy currently in state law, and

14 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives recognizes
15 that the continued retention of the local water sources first
16 policy is integral to protecting the state's water resources,
17 advancing long-term sustainable water resource development and
18 supply systems, and preserving the rights and opportunities of
19 local residents to secure and sustain their future prosperity
20 and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of local water
21 resources, and

22 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives supports the
23 fundamental principles of the Florida Water Resources Act of
24 1972 which require that a proposed use of water be reasonable
25 and beneficial, not interfere with an existing legal use of
26 water, and be consistent with the public interest, and

27 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives opposes
28 legislation that shifts water supply allocation from a publicly
29 regulated process to a market-driven process, and

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30 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives opposes
 31 legislation that undermines a fundamental principle of water
 32 resources law which establishes a right of use rather than a
 33 right of ownership, and

34 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives recently
 35 learned that the Florida Council of 100 intends to request a
 36 repeal or modification of chapter 373, Florida Statutes, to
 37 eliminate provisions that establish a policy for using local
 38 water sources first, and

39 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives wishes to go
 40 on record that such a proposal is ill-considered and will put
 41 the state's surface waters and aquifers at risk of irreparable
 42 harm for irresponsible short-term gain by limited special
 43 interest groups, and

44 WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives believes that
 45 any discussion of regional water transfer, before using local
 46 water sources or alternatives, is premature until minimum flows
 47 and levels have been established for all of the state's water
 48 resources, NOW, THEREFORE,

49
 50 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 51 Florida:

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 53 That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes March
 54 31, 2004, as "Local Water Sources First Day," opposes any
 55 modification to chapter 373, Florida Statutes, as it relates to
 56 the current local water sources first policy, and encourages its
 57 legislative colleagues and the Governor to oppose a change in
 58 this policy.