

By Senator Lynn

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution supporting the continued inclusion of a "local sources first" policy in chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and opposing any amendment to the state's water resource policy which allows, encourages, or promotes water transfers.

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

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate supports a state "local sources first" policy in state law, and

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

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate supports the fundamental principles of the state's water law which require that a proposed use of water be reasonable and beneficial, not interfere with an existing legal use of water, and be consistent with the public interest, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate opposes legislation that shifts water-supply allocation from a publicly regulated process to a market-driven process, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate opposes legislation that undermines a fundamental principle of water law which

1 establishes a right of use rather than a right of ownership,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate recently learned that the
4 Florida Council of 100 intends to request a repeal or
5 modification of chapter 373, Florida Statutes, to eliminate
6 provisions that establish a policy for using local water
7 sources first, and

8 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate wishes to go on record that
9 such a proposal is ill-considered and will put the state's
10 surface waters and aquifers at risk of irreparable harm for
11 irresponsible short-term gain by limited special-interest
12 groups, and

13 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate believes that any
14 discussion of regional water transfer is premature until
15 minimum flows and levels have been established for all of the
16 state's water resources, NOW, THEREFORE,

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18 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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20 That the Florida Senate opposes any modification to
21 chapter 373, Florida Statutes, as it relates to the current
22 "local sources first" policy, and encourages its legislative
23 colleagues and the Governor to oppose a change in this policy.

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