

By the Committee on Natural Resources; and Senator Lynn

312-2277-04

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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 amendments to the state's water resource policy that are inconsistent with the public interest.

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 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 would fundamentally alter the state's current water-supply allocation practices, 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, a recent report by the Florida Council of 100
4 has recommended modifications to chapter 373, Florida
5 Statutes, to significantly alter provisions that establish a
6 policy for using local water sources first, and

7 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate wishes to go on record that
8 such a proposal could put the state's surface waters and
9 aquifers at risk of irreparable harm, and

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

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

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17 That the Florida Senate opposes any modifications to
18 the fundamental provisions of chapter 373, Florida Statutes,
19 as they relate to the current "local sources first" policy,
20 and encourages its legislative colleagues and the Governor to
21 join in this opposition.

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23 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
24 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
25 s1078

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26 The Committee Substitute makes no substantial change.

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