

By Senators Cowin, Lawson, Argenziano, Dockery, Constantine, Atwater, Siplin, Clary, Fasano, Wise, Smith, Webster, Lynn, Peaden, Campbell, Pruitt, Aronberg, Klein, Garcia, Dawson and Lee

20-765B-04

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

A resolution recognizing March 31, 2004, as "Local Water Sources First Day," 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

1           WHEREAS, the Florida Senate opposes legislation that  
2 undermines a fundamental principle of water law which  
3 establishes a right of use rather than a right of ownership,  
4 and

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

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

15           WHEREAS, the Florida Senate believes that any  
16 discussion of regional water transfer, before using local  
17 sources or alternatives, is premature until minimum flows and  
18 levels have been established for all of the state's water  
19 resources, NOW, THEREFORE,

20  
21 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

22  
23           That the Florida Senate recognizes March 31, 2004, as  
24 "Local Water Sources First Day," opposes any modification to  
25 chapter 373, Florida Statutes, as it relates to the current  
26 "local sources first" policy, and encourages its legislative  
27 colleagues and the Governor to oppose a change in this policy.  
28  
29  
30  
31