

By the Committee on Natural Resources; and Senators Cowin, Lawson, Argenziano, Dockery, Constantine, Atwater, Siplin, Clary, Fasano, Wise, Smith, Webster, Alexander, Peadar, Campbell, Pruitt, Aronberg, Klein, Garcia, Dawson and Lee

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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 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

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, a recent report by the Florida Council of 100  
6 has recommended modifications to chapter 373, Florida  
7 Statutes, to significantly alter provisions that establish a  
8 policy for using local water sources first, and

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

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

16  
17 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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19           That the Florida Senate recognizes March 31, 2004, as  
20 "Local Water Sources First Day," and opposes any modifications  
21 to the fundamental provisions of chapter 373, Florida  
22 Statutes, as they relate to the current "local sources first"  
23 policy, and encourages its legislative colleagues and the  
24 Governor to join in this opposition.

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26                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
27                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
28                   s1202

29 The Committee Substitute makes no substantial change.  
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