

By Senator Pruitt

28-1044-04

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Senate Memorial No. ____

A memorial to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, urging prompt action to complete the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on schedule.

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America and is recognized for national significance in the National Estuary Program, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon have been and continue to be severely degraded by excessive freshwater discharges, nutrients, and sediments from drainage canals constructed by the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long history of supporting local, state, and federal programs to improve the environmental health of the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, which health is critical to the economic and social environment of Florida and the nation, and

WHEREAS, state support includes forming and funding the St. Lucie River Issues Team, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Task Force, and 50 percent of the costs of related Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, and

WHEREAS, local government partners, including the Nine County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, are implementing urban stormwater quality retrofit projects, budgeted at over \$100 million, dedicated to cleaning up the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, and

1 WHEREAS, local voters voluntarily approved a special
2 sales tax referendum for healthy rivers that raised over \$50
3 million to help buy the land necessary to implement the Indian
4 River Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has enthusiastically
6 endorsed the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

7 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan,
8 after numerous bureaucratic delays, is ready for Congressional
9 authorization and construction, and

10 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States deserve the
11 prompt authorization and construction of the Indian River
12 Lagoon Restoration Plan, the first major component of the
13 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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17 That the State of Florida urges the United States Army
18 Corps of Engineers to complete work on the Indian River Lagoon
19 Restoration Plan and forward it to Congress for authorization
20 as rescheduled in August 2003 and urges federal officials to
21 keep the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on schedule and
22 present it without further delay for Congressional
23 authorization in 2004.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 dispatched to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to
26 the President of the United States, to the President of the
27 United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States
28 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida
29 delegation to the United States Congress.

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