



HM 0193

2004

## House Memorial

1  
2 A memorial to the United States Army Corps of Engineers,  
3 urging prompt action to complete the Indian River Lagoon  
4 Restoration Plan on schedule.

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

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

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

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

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



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

33 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has enthusiastically endorsed  
34 the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

35 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, after  
36 numerous bureaucratic delays, is ready for Congressional  
37 authorization and construction, and

38 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States deserve the  
39 prompt authorization and construction of the Indian River Lagoon  
40 Restoration Plan, the first major component of the Comprehensive  
41 Everglades Restoration Plan, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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45 That the State of Florida urges the United States Army  
46 Corps of Engineers to complete work on the Indian River Lagoon  
47 Restoration Plan and forward it to Congress for authorization as  
48 rescheduled in August 2003 and urges federal officials to keep  
49 the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on schedule and present  
50 it without further delay for Congressional authorization in  
51 2004.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
53 dispatched to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to the  
54 President of the United States, to the President of the United  
55 States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of  
56 Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to  
57 the United States Congress.