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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Natural Resources recommends the following:

2
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 House Memorial

6 A memorial to the United States Army Corps of Engineers
7 and the United States Congress, urging prompt action to
8 complete the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan on
9 schedule.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically
12 diverse estuary in North America and is recognized for national
13 significance in the National Estuary Program, and

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

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

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has enthusiastically endorsed
39 the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, and

40 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, after
41 numerous bureaucratic delays, is ready for Congressional
42 authorization and construction, and

43 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States deserve the
44 prompt authorization and construction of the Indian River Lagoon
45 Restoration Plan, the first major component of the Comprehensive
46 Everglades Restoration Plan, NOW, THEREFORE,

47
48 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

49
50 That the State of Florida urges the United States Army
51 Corps of Engineers to complete work on the Indian River Lagoon

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52 Restoration Plan and forward it to Congress for authorization
53 and urges federal officials to keep the Indian River Lagoon
54 Restoration Plan on schedule and present it without further
55 delay for Congressional authorization in 2004.

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