

HM 1131

2008

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging  
3 Congress to fully fund the implementation of the Indian  
4 River Lagoon South Restoration Project as authorized in  
5 the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary  
8 encompass the most biologically diverse estuary in North  
9 America, which is recognized for national significance in the  
10 National Estuary Program, and

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

17 WHEREAS, the support of the State of Florida includes  
18 forming and funding the St. Lucie River Issues Team and the  
19 Indian River Lagoon Restoration Task Force and fully funding the  
20 state's share of the cost of the Comprehensive Everglades  
21 Restoration Plan projects, and

22 WHEREAS, local government partners, including the Ten  
23 County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake  
24 Okeechobee and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, are  
25 implementing urban stormwater quality retrofit projects, funding  
26 over \$100 million to restore the Indian River Lagoon and the St.  
27 Lucie Estuary, and

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28 WHEREAS, local voters in Martin County approved a special  
 29 sales tax referendum for healthy rivers that raised over \$50  
 30 million to assist in the purchase of the land necessary to  
 31 implement the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Project, and

32 WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon South Restoration Project  
 33 was authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development  
 34 Act of 2007, and

35 WHEREAS, the people of the United States, and the  
 36 generations of Americans to follow, deserve the environmental  
 37 and economic benefits of the restoration of America's Everglades  
 38 that will be derived from the implementation of the entire  
 39 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

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

42

43 That the United States Congress is urged to fully fund the  
 44 implementation of the Indian River Lagoon South Restoration  
 45 Project as authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of  
 46 2007.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
 48 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
 49 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
 50 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
 51 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.