

HM 7153

2011

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to support or initiate action that would allow local governments to fully implement programs designed to encourage voluntary energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind resistance improvements by homeowners and businesses.

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major expense for home and business owners, and

WHEREAS, hurricanes and other wind storm events pose significant threats to Florida citizens and property, and

WHEREAS, energy conservation and efficiency and reduced reliance on fossil fuel energy generation enhance the welfare of the public by reducing energy bills and diversifying energy production, and

WHEREAS, wind storm protection reduces damage to the improved property and property in the vicinity of the improved property from hurricanes and other wind events, and

WHEREAS, the upfront costs of such improvements prevent property owners from making otherwise cost-effective energy and wind resistance improvements, and

WHEREAS, state and local governments have embraced programs that allow local governments to facilitate the financing of energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and, in Florida, wind resistance improvements because of the remarkable potential to cut energy bills, increase homeowners' cash flow for mortgage payments and other bills or investments, reduce

HM 7153

2011

29 mortgage default risk, and potentially reduce property insurance
30 by reducing property damage risk by encouraging investment in
31 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind
32 resistance property improvements, and

33 WHEREAS, unemployment in Florida is at record levels, in
34 the construction sector in particular, and the State of Florida
35 anticipates that the implementation of such programs would
36 create employment opportunities for thousands of Florida
37 citizens, and

38 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has determined that reduced
39 reliance on fossil fuels for electrical generation and increased
40 wind resistance of Florida properties to wind storm events are
41 of benefit to the citizens of the State of Florida, and

42 WHEREAS, in Chapter 2010-139, Laws of Florida, now codified
43 in s. 163.08, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida authorized
44 local governments to create programs to promote the
45 implementation of energy conservation and efficiency, renewable
46 energy, and wind resistance measures at residential and
47 commercial properties, and

48 WHEREAS, such financing programs are an innovative local
49 government solution to assist property owners in financing
50 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind
51 resistance improvements to their homes and businesses on a
52 voluntary basis, and

53 WHEREAS, twenty-two other states have passed laws enabling
54 local governments to develop such programs, and

55 WHEREAS, despite such programs' potential to decrease the
56 burden of household expenses for Floridians who participate, the

HM 7153

2011

57 Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Office of the Comptroller
58 of the Currency on July 6, 2010, issued statements that
59 immediately stalled implementation of such programs in Florida
60 and froze the progress of most existing similar programs
61 nationwide, and

62 WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Finance Agency's actions have
63 resulted in lawsuits around the nation, and Congressional action
64 would rapidly and efficiently resolve those disputes, NOW,
65 THEREFORE,

66

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

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69 That Congress is urged to quickly restore the potential of
70 job creation and economic development through voluntary state-
71 authorized energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy,
72 and wind resistance programs by supporting the implementation of
73 these programs by local governments in Florida through
74 Congressional action that affirms the authority of local
75 governments to implement these programs in Florida pursuant to
76 Chapter 2010-139, Laws of Florida.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
78 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
79 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
80 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
81 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.