

HR 9053

2011

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing the Woodville Karst Plain Project
3 for its outstanding contributions to the State of Florida
4 through scientific research and its dedication and
5 tireless efforts to promote the protection of the state's
6 precious natural water resources.

7
8 WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project team was
9 developed and granted official project status by the National
10 Speleological Society in 1990 to conduct exploratory dives,
11 research, and mapping within the Wakulla-Leon Sinks Cave Systems
12 located in North Florida south of Tallahassee to the Gulf of
13 Mexico, and

14 WHEREAS, the Wakulla-Leon Sinks Cave System ranks number
15 one in the United States for longest underwater cave system,
16 fourth in the world for longest underwater cave system, and
17 sixty-fourth in the world for longest cave system wet or dry,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project is a nonprofit
20 affiliate of Global Underwater Explorers and comprised of nearly
21 75 volunteers who have dedicated over 20 years of service and
22 resources to research, and

23 WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project divers hold
24 multiple world records in underwater cave diving, and

25 WHEREAS, diving methods developed by the team members of
26 the Woodville Karst Plain Project have influenced scientific and
27 military diving protocols, and

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28 WHEREAS, data gathered by the Woodville Karst Plain Project
29 has provided governmental agencies with a better understanding
30 of the underground aquifer system, surface water runoff, and
31 other nonpoint source pollution issues, and

32 WHEREAS, as a result of the mapping done by the Woodville
33 Karst Plain Project, the State of Florida and the United States
34 Department of Agriculture established a greenway surrounding the
35 Leon Sinks Cave System and a protection zone for Edward Ball
36 Wakulla Springs State Park, as well as numerous improvements in
37 water management district operations and development planning,
38 and

39 WHEREAS, in 2007, Woodville Karst Plain Project divers
40 Casey McKinlay and Jarrod Jablonski discovered the connection
41 between the Leon and Wakulla Sinks Cave Systems after nearly 20
42 years of exploration and continue to push the mapping efforts
43 southward to the Gulf of Mexico, and

44 WHEREAS, in March 2009, the Florida Cabinet recognized the
45 efforts of the Woodville Karst Plain Project and its 20 years of
46 volunteer service to the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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48 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
49 Florida:

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51 That the Woodville Karst Plain Project team is recognized
52 for its outstanding contributions to the State of Florida
53 through scientific research and its dedication and tireless
54 efforts to promote the protection of the state's precious
55 natural water resources.

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56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
57 presented to Mr. Casey McKinlay, Woodville Karst Plain Project
58 Director, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
59 herein.