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RESOLUTION 2003 - 132

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED INCLUSION OF A LOCAL SOURCES FIRST POLICY IN FLORIDA STATUTES, CHAPTER 373, AND THE BOARD'S OPPOSITION TO ANY AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA'S WATER RESOURCE POLICY WHICH ALLOWS, ENCOURAGES, OR PROMOTES WATER TRANSFERS.

WHEREAS, Florida's water resources are a natural resource and not a commodity to be sold or transferred to the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County has been a staunch supporter of a State local sources first policy within Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County believes the continued retention of the local sources first policy is integral to protecting Florida's water resources, advancing long-term sustainable water resource development and supply systems, and preserving the rights and opportunities of local residents to secure and sustain their future prosperity and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of local water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County unanimously agrees with the Florida Association of Counties' support of the fundamental principles of Florida water law which requires a showing that a proposed use of water is a reasonable, beneficial use, will not interfere

with an existing legal use of water, and is consistent with the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County supports the Florida Association of Counties' opposition to legislation that shifts water supply allocation from a publicly regulated process to a market driven process; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County supports the Florida Association of Counties' opposition to legislation that undermines the fundamental principles of Florida Water Law, which establishes a right-of-use, not a right-of-ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County has recently seen documentation that indicates that the Florida Council of 100 will request repeal or modification to Florida Statutes, Chapter 373, to eliminate the local sources first language; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County desires to go on record early and unequivocally that such a proposal is ill considered and will put Florida's surface waters and aquifers at risk of irreparable damage for irresponsible short-term gain by limited special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County believes that any discussion of regional water transfer is premature until Minimum Flows and Levels have been established for all of Florida's water resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 13th day of October, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners actively opposes any modification to Florida Statutes, Chapter 373, as it relates to the current local sources first policy; and

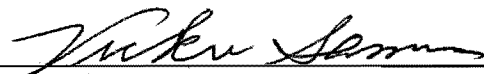
2. The Board of County Commissioners encourages all local governments and elected officials to voice their opposition to their State elected officials; and

3. The Board of County Commissioners directs that the Clerk provide copies of this Resolution to:

- a. The Nassau Legislative Delegation
- b. The Speaker of the House
- c. The President of the Senate
- d. The Governor of the State of Florida
- e. The County Commission of each of Florida's Counties
- f. The St. Johns River Water Management District

- g. The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
- h. The Florida League of Cities
- i. The Florida Association of Counties.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



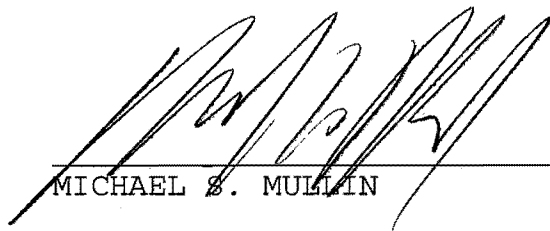
VICKIE SAMUS
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLIN

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