

RESOLUTION 2017- 75

A RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND CABINET TO DEDICATE CONSERVATION FUNDS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL FLORIDA AND TO PROVIDE FAIR AND EQUAL FUNDING STATEWIDE FROM THE LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND FOR IMPORTANT WATER PROTECTION PROJECTS; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD COPIES OF THIS ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND CABINET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment was passed favorably by seventy-five percent of Florida voters, providing a guaranteed revenue source of conservation funds for the purpose of protecting all of Florida's vital water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, with forty percent of Florida's acreage covered by water, including more than 1000 natural springs, 27,561 miles of rivers and streams, and 1.6 million acres of lakes reservoirs and ponds, Florida's water is one of its most unique and important features; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has found that eighty percent of Florida's lakes and seventy percent of Florida's springs are considered impaired by excessive levels of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus; and

**WHEREAS**, North and Central Florida are home to seventy percent of Florida's river watersheds, the majority of Florida's springs, and provides nearly all of the recharge to the Floridan aquifer; and

**WHEREAS**, it is of statewide importance to ensure clear-water systems, like the freshwater springs, lakes and rivers throughout North and Central Florida, are protected from excessive nutrient

impairment; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraging the Florida Legislature to fund and complete existing water improvement programs across Florida to prevent delays that would unnecessarily jeopardize nutrient reduction programs, best management practices and other restorative efforts that are working; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the southern estuaries received 380 percent, or 4.8 times more Land Acquisition Trust Fund (Amendment 1) funding than statewide springs protection did; and

**WHEREAS**, a supermajority of conservation funding being dedicated to one project or Water Management District will jeopardize funding for other essential projects and priorities across Florida; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida:

**Section 1.** The Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida("the Board") hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to dedicate conservation funds allocated through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund each year for water conservation projects in the environmentally sensitive areas of North and Central Florida.

**Section 2.** The Board also hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to provide fair and equal funding statewide from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits.

**Section 3. Directive to Circulate.** The County Manager and the County Attorney are hereby directed to forward copies of this adopted Resolution to Senator Aaron Bean and Representative Cord Byrd as well as to the Executive Director of the Florida Association of Counties.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

effective upon the execution by the Chairman.

DULY ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

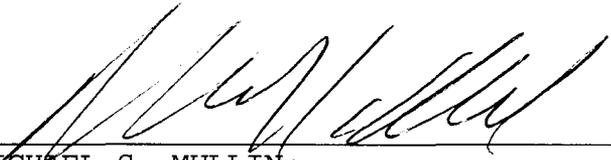
  
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DANIEL B. LEEPER  
Its: Chairman

ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

NES  
04.12.17

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE NASSAU COUNTY  
ATTORNEY:

  
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MICHAEL S. MULLIN