



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, Florida 34995 (772) 225-2849

Rivers Coalition Resolution

Supporting the "Protect Florida Act"/ U.S. Bill HR 3324

WHEREAS, Congressman Brian Mast (FL Dist. 18) recently introduced the proposed 'PROTECT Florida Act' HR 3324 which directs the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to prioritize human health and safety when balancing the needs of the Central & South Florida Project system; and

WHEREAS, The PROTECT Florida Act modernizes a federal statute written in 1948 called the C&SF Project, which outlined seven "priorities", but left it up to the USACE to decide how to "balance" among them. In 1948, when very few people lived in Florida health and the environment may not have been issues but today, with 21 million people, there is a need to update the outdated C&SF Project priorities; and

WHEREAS, The PROTECT Florida Act is a reintroduction of the Stop Harmful Discharges Act (HR 6700) Congressman Mast filed in summer 2018. Since then, Congressman Mast has gathered input from all interested stakeholders, language has been added to address concerns about the protection of tribal rights, providing the natural system with the clean water it needs. The language was also vetted to ensure it won't further slowdown the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan efforts and that the bill would work as intended; and

WHEREAS, The USACE creates operating manuals for where the water goes based on these priorities and the PROTECT Florida Act would assist the USACE with these priorities. The USACE is underway with a revised operating manual known as the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The PROTECT Florida Act may provide greater certainty that the USACE was protecting the people of Florida when redesigning operating schedules like LOSOM.

Therefore be it resolved:

The Rivers Coalition representing 103 organizations with over 350,000 members that live along, work, or otherwise benefit from the St Lucie River and Estuary, and the Indian River Lagoon supports the proposed PROTECT Florida Act HR 3324.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF July 2019 by its Members.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Perry, Pres.', is written over a faint, larger signature.

Mark Perry, President, Rivers Coalition Board of Directors

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Members: 1000 Friends of Florida, 27-80 Paddlers, American Association of University Women, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, Audubon Florida, Audubon of Martin County, Ballantrae Anglers Club, Ballantrae Yacht Club, Beau Rivage HOA, Bullsugar, Business Development Board of Martin County, Circle Bay Yacht Club Condo Assn. Inc., Citizens for Clean Water, Coconut Point Yacht Club, Computer Network Services, Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie Co. Inc, Cypress Lake HOA, Dolphin Ecology Project, Driftwood Motel of Jensen Beach. Economic Council of Martin County, Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Sportsman, Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Four Rivers Property Association, Four Winds Condo Association, Friends of Harbor Branch - FAU, Gregor Woods HOA, Guardians of Martin County, Harborage Yacht Condominiums, Harbour Ridge Yacht Club, Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Indian Riverkeeper, Indian River Plantation POA, Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce, Joe's Point HOA, Keep Martin Beautiful, Leadership Martin, League of Women Voters of Martin Co., League of Women's Voters of SLC Co., Lighthouse Point Association Inc., Locks Landing HOA, Lost River Plantation HOA, Marine Cleanup Initiative Inc., Marine Industries Assoc. of Treasure Coast, Marine Resources Council, Martin County Anglers, Martin County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Martin County Conservation Alliance, Martin County Farm Bureau, Martin County Future Group, Martin County Hotel & Motel Association, Martin Soil & Water Conservation Dist, Miramar POA, Nettles Island Community Action Assoc., North River Shores Prop. Assoc., Ocean Research and Conservation Association, Palm City Chamber of Commerce, Palm City Civic Assn, Palm Cove Yacht Club, Palm Cove HOA, Pierpoint Condominium Assoc., Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Assoc., Port Sewall Harbor & Tennis Club Owners Ass, Port Sewall Property Owners Assoc., Port St Lucie Anglers, President's Council of Hutchinson Island, Realtor Association of Martin County, Rio Civic Club, River Club Dock Owners Association Inc., River Kidz, River Kidz of St. Lucie County, River Vista HOA, River Warriors, Royal Harbor Homeowners Assn, Sailfish Point POA, Sailfish Point Yacht Club, Savanna Fishing Club, Seagate Harbor Homeowners Assoc., Snug Harbor Yacht Club, St. Lucie Audubon Society, St. Lucie River Yacht Club, St. Lucie Sailing Club, St. Lucie Settlement Inc., Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club, Stuart Flyrodders, Stuart Heritage, Stuart Rod & Reel Club, Stuart/Martin County Chamber, Surfrider Foundation, Teamsters Local 769, The Garden Club of Stuart Inc, The Junior League of Martin County, Treasure Coast Buddhist Cooperative, Treasure Coast Builders Association, Treasure Coast Democratic Environmental Caucus, Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association, Treasure Coast Rowing Club, Treasure Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, US Sailing Center of Martin County, Venture Three Community, Windjammer Condo Association