

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: June 7, 2016 (X) Consent ( ) Regular  
 ( ) Ordinance ( ) Public Hearing  
 Department  
 Submitted By: County Administration  
 Submitted For: County Administration

**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt:** A resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, supporting Amendment 4: *Solar Devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption from Certain Taxation and Assessment*, and providing for the transmission of the resolution and an effective date.

**Summary:** Approval of this item supports the County's state legislative priorities in moving Florida forward in embracing renewable energy, decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, and reducing our collective carbon footprint through an increase solar-energy use with the provided real benefit of providing tax cuts to more properties. Countywide (RPB)

**Background and Justification:** In September 2016, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved the 2016 State Legislative Program which includes priority appropriations and legislative priorities, general appropriations and general issues to support and monitor. This Program is reflective of the County coordinating with other members of the Compact to align legislative priorities supporting the goals of creating resilience for the South Florida region. The following County and Compact state legislative priorities are particularly supportive of the proposed joint resolution:

- SUPPORT rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.
- SUPPORT legislation and/or constitutional amendments that will exempt solar photovoltaic systems from commercial property assessments and the tangible personal property tax.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution

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Recommended by: Natalie A. Schneider 5/13/16  
 Climate Change & Sustainability Coordinator Date

Approved by: Sharon B. [Signature] 5/19/16  
 Deputy County Administrator Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capital Expenditures	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Operating Costs	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
External Revenues	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Program Income (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
In-Kind Match (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Proposed Budget? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ RSRC \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program \_\_\_\_\_

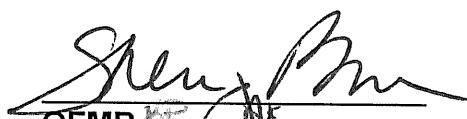
**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**


There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**C. Department Fiscal Review:**

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**

  
 OFMB <sup>NS</sup> 5/16

  
 Contract Development and Control  
 5/17/16 @

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AMENDMENT 4: SOLAR DEVICES OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES; EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT, AND PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE RESOLUTION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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**WHEREAS**, solar photovoltaic energy offers many potential benefits, including lower electricity costs for homeowners, businesses, and governments; creation of local jobs and strengthening economic development; reduced dependence on imported fuels and pollution-free electricity generation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008 Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment that authorized the Florida Legislature to exclude solar or renewable energy improvements from residential property appraisals; and

**WHEREAS**, a bipartisan joint resolution, passed unanimously by both the Florida House of Representative and Florida Senate on March 9, 2016, authored by Senator Jeffrey Brandes (R-22), Rep. Lori Berman (D-90), and Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-76) and supported by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association, The Nature Conservancy and others, seeks to extend this exemption to nonresidential properties as Amendment 4, entitled "Solar Devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption from Certain Taxation and Assessment"; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 4 would authorize the Florida Legislature to exempt solar and other renewable energy systems from both residential and nonresidential property appraisals and from the tangible personal property tax, effective January 1, 2018, and for the subsequent 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2015, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved the 2016 State Legislative Program, which reflects the Compact Counties 2016 State Energy and Climate Legislative Program, and specifically supports "rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems," and "legislation and/or constitutional amendments that will exempt solar photovoltaic systems from commercial property assessments and the tangible personal property tax";

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners supports and endorses Amendment 4 and urges all Palm Beach County and Florida voters to vote in favor of the amendment on the August 30, 2016 ballot.

1           **Section 2.** A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Florida for Solar  
2 Inc., the 501(c)(4) organization promoting Amendment 4.

3           **Section 3.** EFFECTIVE DATE.

4           This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

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6 The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved  
7 its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and upon  
8 being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

9           COMM. MARY LOU BERGER, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

10           COMM. HAL R. VALECHE, Vice Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

11           COMM. PAULETTE BURDICK \_\_\_\_\_

12           COMM. SHELLEY VANA \_\_\_\_\_

13           COMM. STEVEN L. ABRAMS \_\_\_\_\_

14           COMM. MELISSA MCKINLAY \_\_\_\_\_

15           COMM. PRISCILLA A. TAYLOR \_\_\_\_\_

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17 The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_  
18 day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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22 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
23 LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

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PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

By:   
County Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk