Agenda Item: 3L-2

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	July 12, 2022	(X) Consent () Workshop	()Regular ()Public Hearing		
Department:	Environmental Resources Management				

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends a motion to adopt a Resolution supporting U.S. Senate Bill 46 and U.S. House Bill 160, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021.

Summary: In November of 2019, the Board of County Commissioners passed a Resolution (R2019-1781) demonstrating Palm Beach County's support of U.S. Senate Bill 2429, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019. Senate Bill 2429 later passed the Senate but stalled in the House of Representatives. This new bill, Senate Bill 46, entitled Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021, mirrors the 2019 resolution and is accompanied by the companion House Bill 160.

Senate Bill 46/House Bill 160 would reauthorize and reimagine the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, taking a more robust approach to implementing coral reef conservation policies at the federal level and supporting and coordinating coral reef conservation policies at the state level. The Bill would also strengthen the federal response to coral reef emergencies including disease and bleaching situations, natural disasters, vessel groundings, hazardous spills, and coastal construction accidents. Monroe County has already approved a similar resolution and Martin County staff are working to draft their own resolution now. <u>Countywide</u> (SS)

Background and Justification: Florida's Coral Reef runs parallel to the Florida coastline from Monroe to Martin County and supports over 70,000 jobs within the region, generating over \$6 billion annually in positive economic impact. Since 2014, a coral disease that started in Miami has spread north and south along Florida's entire Coral Reef, harming over 50 percent of the reef-building coral species in the area. In 2000, the Coral Reef Conservation Act established the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program to protect, conserve, and restore the Nation's coral reefs. The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021 would revive and modernize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 18 years after its expiration.

Attachment: 1. Resolution

Recommended by:

Department Director

<u>5-17-2022</u> Date

6/3/22

SAS 5/16/22

Approved by:

Assistant County Administrator

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years		2022	2023	2024	2025		2026
Capital Expe	enditures						
Operating C	osts					_	
External Rev	/enues					-	
Program Income (County)							
In-Kind Mate	ch (County)					-	<u></u>
NET FISCAL	IMPACT			<u> </u>			
# ADDITION POSITIONS		e)				-	
Is Item Inclu	ided in Curre	ent Budget?	Yes		No	X	
Does this ite	em include t	he use of fed	eral funds?	Yes	No	Х	
Budget Acc	ount No.:						
Fund	Department	Unit_	Object	Prog	ram		
 B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with this item. 							
C.	C. Department Fiscal Review:						
III. REVIEW COMMENTS							
A.	Legal Suff	iciency:		tract Develop	unbar	To	11122 rol
С.	Other Dep	artment Revi	ew:				

Department Director

RESOLUTION NO. R2022-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA URGING UNITED STATES THE CONGRESS REAUTHORIZE THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILI 46 AND HOUSE BILL 160, THE RESTORING RESILIENT REEFS ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REPRESENTING PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS, Florida's Coral Reef runs parallel to the Florida coastline from Monroe County north to Martin County, is a valuable national resource that protects our shores and beaches by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes, and provides a vital marine habitat for over 6,000 species; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suggests that coral reefs in Southeast Florida have an asset value of \$8.5 billion, generating \$4.4 billion in local sales, \$2 billion in local income, and 70,400 full and part-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, this habitat is essential to Palm Beach County's tourism, diving, and fishing industries, with snorkeling and diving in Palm Beach County generating \$202 million annually and recreational reef fishing in Palm Beach County generating \$80 million annually; and

WHEREAS, coral reefs dissipate wave energy offshore before waves flood coastal communities, and the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that with a one-meter loss in reef height, the 100-year floodplain would increase across Florida by 20 km², imperiling 24,000 more people and \$2.9 billion in property and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, protection of Florida's Coral Reef is essential for ensuring the continued protection of our shorelines, coastal economies, coastal food sources, and biomedical opportunities that are a direct result of our coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that coastal ocean waters are under great user pressure and suffer from water quality degradation that has compromised the resiliency of Florida's Coral Reef; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the six major coral bleaching events that have impacted Florida reefs since 1987, a novel coral disease discovered in 2014 has killed millions of reef-building corals in Florida and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative, multiagency, emergency response team of experts is essential to address and protect the future of our coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program was established in 2000 by the Coral Reef Conservation Act to protect, conserve, and restore the nation's coral reefs by maintaining healthy ecosystem function; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 46 and House Bill 160, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021, would revive and modernize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 18 years after its expiration; and

WHEREAS, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021 would provide a five-year authorization for federal funding, statutory authority for the US Coral Reef Task Force to lead, coordinate, and strengthen federal government actions to preserve and restore coral reef systems, and direct a portion of the federal funding and technical assistance to states and impacted communities so they can help drive priorities and management of coral reef ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 46 and House Bill 160 specifically strengthen the federal response to coral reef emergencies including disease outbreaks, invasive species, coral bleaching, natural disasters, vessel groundings, hazardous spills, and coastal construction accidents; and

WHEREAS, the Senate and House bills are sponsored by Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Florida Representative Darren Soto, respectively; and

WHEREAS, support for S. 46 and H.R. 160 is consistent with Palm Beach County's long history of championing protections for marine and estuarine environment; and

WHEREAS, this resolution mirrors a 2019 Resolution (R2019-1781) to support the near identical Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019 which passed the Senate in 2020, but stalled in the House of Representatives.

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

Section 1: The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted and ratified herein.Section 2: Palm Beach County urges the United States Congress to pass

Senate Bill 46 and House Bill 160, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021, and reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

- Section 3: The Board of County Commissioners hereby directs the Office of Legislative Affairs to transmit copies of this Resolution to Sen.
 Marco Rubio, Sen. Rick Scott, U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, and to the other members of the Palm Beach County Delegation.
- Section 4: The Board of County Commissioners hereby directs the County's federal lobby team to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Legislative Affairs to amend the 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda to include this item.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____,

who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

_____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth, Mayor	
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss, Vice Mayor	
Commissioner Maria G. Marino	
Commissioner Dave Kerner	
Commissioner Maria Sachs	
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	د مربع میرون میرون از میرون از میرون میرون از می
Commissioner Mack Bernard	

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this

_____ day of _____, 2022.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOSEPH ABRUZZO Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

Ву	
Scott A. Stone	e Date
Assistant Cou	ntv Attornev

Deputy Clerk

By

Date