

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEFUNIAK SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA 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 OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO USE STATE CONSERVATION FUNDS TO PURCHASE FARM LANDS SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR WATER STORAGE.

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 protecting all of Florida's vital water resources;¹ and

WHEREAS, with forty percent of Florida's acreage covered by water, including more than 1,000 natural springs, 27,561 miles of rivers and streams, and 1.6 million acres of lakes, reservoirs and ponds,² 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;³ and

WHEREAS, North and Central Florida are home to seventy percent of Florida's river watersheds,⁴ the majority of Florida's springs,⁵ and provides nearly all of the recharge to the Florida aquifer,⁶ 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, the Legislature should fund and finish existing water improvement programs across Florida to prevent delays that would unnecessarily jeopardize nutrient reduction programs, best management practices, & other restorative efforts that are working;⁷ and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Everglades and southern estuaries received 380 percent, or 4.8 times, more Land Acquisition Trust Fund (Amendment 1) funding than statewide springs protection did;⁸ and

WHEREAS, a supermajority of conservation funding should not be dedicated to one project or Water Management district, and it is essential that no one project jeopardize funding for other essential projects and priorities across Florida; and

WHEREAS, purchasing land south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage does not guarantee the prevention of algae blooms and other environmental incidents in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers, and does nothing to address the sources of water contamination that are being seen across the state;⁹ and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEFUNIAK SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL that:

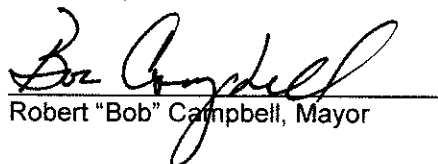
Section 1: The DeFuniak Springs City Council of DeFuniak Springs, Florida hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to dedicate conservation funds allocated through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund each year for water conservation projects in the environmentally sensitive areas of North and Central Florida.

Section 2: The DeFuniak Springs City Council of the DeFuniak Springs, Florida hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to oppose any proposal to use state conservation funds to purchase farm lands south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage.

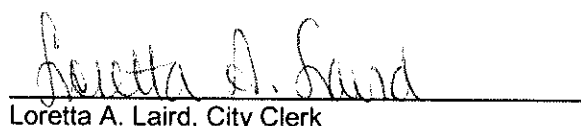
Section 3: The DeFuniak Springs City Council hereby authorizes the City Clerk to transmit this Resolution to the Florida Legislature and Cabinet.

Section 4: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016.


Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk

(SEAL)



¹ Ballotpedia

² 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection *Annual Report*, page 20

³ 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection *Annual Report*, page 22

⁴ Florida Department of Environmental Protection *Watershed Management*

⁵ Florida Department of Environmental Protection *Springs Initiative Monitoring Report*, page 2

⁶ USGS

⁷ 2016 *South Florida Water Report - SFWMD*

⁸ 2016 *General Appropriations Act*

⁹ South Florida Water Management District *Myth vs. Fact* & page 51 of 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection *Annual Report*