

HM 7153

2011

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging  
3 Congress to support or initiate action that would allow  
4 local governments to fully implement programs designed to  
5 encourage voluntary energy conservation and efficiency,  
6 renewable energy, and wind resistance improvements by  
7 homeowners and businesses.

8  
9 WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major expense for home  
10 and business owners, and

11 WHEREAS, hurricanes and other wind storm events pose  
12 significant threats to Florida citizens and property, and

13 WHEREAS, energy conservation and efficiency and reduced  
14 reliance on fossil fuel energy generation enhance the welfare of  
15 the public by reducing energy bills and diversifying energy  
16 production, and

17 WHEREAS, wind storm protection reduces damage to the  
18 improved property and property in the vicinity of the improved  
19 property from hurricanes and other wind events, and

20 WHEREAS, the upfront costs of such improvements prevent  
21 property owners from making otherwise cost-effective energy and  
22 wind resistance improvements, and

23 WHEREAS, state and local governments have embraced programs  
24 that allow local governments to facilitate the financing of  
25 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and, in  
26 Florida, wind resistance improvements because of the remarkable  
27 potential to cut energy bills, increase homeowners' cash flow  
28 for mortgage payments and other bills or investments, reduce

HM 7153

2011

29 | mortgage default risk, and potentially reduce property insurance  
 30 | by reducing property damage risk by encouraging investment in  
 31 | energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind  
 32 | resistance property improvements, and

33 |       WHEREAS, unemployment in Florida is at record levels, in  
 34 | the construction sector in particular, and the State of Florida  
 35 | anticipates that the implementation of such programs would  
 36 | create employment opportunities for thousands of Florida  
 37 | citizens, and

38 |       WHEREAS, the State of Florida has determined that reduced  
 39 | reliance on fossil fuels for electrical generation and increased  
 40 | wind resistance of Florida properties to wind storm events are  
 41 | of benefit to the citizens of the State of Florida, and

42 |       WHEREAS, in Chapter 2010-139, Laws of Florida, now codified  
 43 | in s. 163.08, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida authorized  
 44 | local governments to create programs to promote the  
 45 | implementation of energy conservation and efficiency, renewable  
 46 | energy, and wind resistance measures at residential and  
 47 | commercial properties, and

48 |       WHEREAS, such financing programs are an innovative local  
 49 | government solution to assist property owners in financing  
 50 | energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind  
 51 | resistance improvements to their homes and businesses on a  
 52 | voluntary basis, and

53 |       WHEREAS, twenty-two other states have passed laws enabling  
 54 | local governments to develop such programs, and

55 |       WHEREAS, despite such programs' potential to decrease the  
 56 | burden of household expenses for Floridians who participate, the

HM 7153

2011

57 Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Office of the Comptroller  
58 of the Currency on July 6, 2010, issued statements that  
59 immediately stalled implementation of such programs in Florida  
60 and froze the progress of most existing similar programs  
61 nationwide, and

62 WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Finance Agency's actions have  
63 resulted in lawsuits around the nation, and Congressional action  
64 would rapidly and efficiently resolve those disputes, NOW,  
65 THEREFORE,

66

67 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

68

69 That Congress is urged to quickly restore the potential of  
70 job creation and economic development through voluntary state-  
71 authorized energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy,  
72 and wind resistance programs by supporting the implementation of  
73 these programs by local governments in Florida through  
74 Congressional action that affirms the authority of local  
75 governments to implement these programs in Florida pursuant to  
76 Chapter 2010-139, Laws of Florida.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
78 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
79 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
80 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
81 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.