



FAC Federal Policy Committee
2020-2021 DRAFT Policy Statements
September 10, 2020

1. NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC policy

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform: SUPPORT reauthorization of the NFIP with legislative, policy and programmatic modifications to ensure no coverage lapses and to improve the affordability, transparency, and financial stability of the program through reforms in the following areas: 1) Affordability/Rate Structure; 2) Mapping/Data Collection/Modeling; and, 3) Mitigation. **OPPOSE** any reauthorization efforts that are detrimental to policy holders, local governments, and the integrity of the program.

2. WATER

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC policy

WRDA: SUPPORT bi-annual passage of the Water Resources Development Act that authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and policies that often have state-wide impacts to Florida, including Everglades restoration, port and inlet construction, and beach nourishment projects. **SUPPORT** restoration of congressionally directed spending.

3. UPPER KISSIMMEE BASIN WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

Committee Recommendation:

A. Adopt amended FAC policy

Upper Kissimmee Basin Water Storage Projects: SUPPORT the inclusion of funding in the Water Resources Development ACT (WRDA) for studies and implementation of water storage projects within the Upper Kissimmee Basin to reduce harmful discharges, enhance central Florida water supply, and to mitigate negative economic impacts on communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.



SUPPORT including the following language in the next WRDA bill: The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following:

SUPPORT including the following language in the next WRDA bill expanding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program, to the fullest extent of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), to include the Upper Kissimmee Basin and the headwaters of the Kissimmee River at the Shingle Creek tributary.

4. DISASTER RECOVERY

Committee Recommendation:

A. Adopt revised FAC Policy

Recovery & Preparedness: SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other partnerships between local and federal governments to complete mitigation projects and increase resiliency to disasters. **SUPPORT** measures that ensure any supplemental disaster recovery assistance appropriated by Congress, including the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR), is expediated to states to be made available to disaster-impacted counties. **OPPOSE** programmatic changes that would increase the local cost share for disaster recovery, such as implementation of a disaster deductible.

5. OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Offshore Oil Drilling: SUPPORT the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which bans oil and gas leasing within 125 miles off Florida’s Gulf Coast until 2022. **SUPPORT** keeping Florida’s east coast free from offshore drilling and maintaining the Department of Interior’s commitment to remove Florida from consideration in the next draft of the proposed leasing plan. **OPPOSE** any legislation that moves the ban to an earlier date.

6. FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy



Appropriations for Programs of Significant Importance: SUPPORT the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local services and local public infrastructure. These funding programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades restoration, port & inlet construction & maintenance & beach nourishment
- Community Development Block Grant program
- Community Services Block Grant program
- Social Services Block Grant program
- Economic Development Administration
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

7. VETERANS

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Veterans Homelessness: SUPPORT legislation requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide case management support to local housing authorities under the VA-supported housing program.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Infrastructure: SUPPORT federal legislation that ensures funding for locally owned infrastructure, including water and wastewater facilities, preserves the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, streamlines the federal permitting process, promotes innovative financing, and ensures the long-term certainty and solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

9. FEMA FLOOD MAPPING – RISK RATING 2.0

Committee Recommendation:

A. Adopt amended FAC Policy Statement



FEMA Flood Mapping Risk Rating 2.0: SUPPORT measures that ensures FEMA consults with counties as it develops its new Risk Rating 2.0 flood mapping initiative.

10. HEALTH CARE FOR NON-CONVICTED PERSONS

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Health Care for Non-Convicted Persons: SUPPORT the reinstatement of federal health care benefits, including those benefits awarded to veterans, for non-convicted justice involved individuals.

11. DIGITAL DIVIDE

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Digital Divide: SUPPORT increasing public funding for construction and mapping of broadband infrastructure.

12. NON-DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

Committee Recommendation:

A. Retain current FAC Policy

Non-Domestic Sand Sources: SUPPORT enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.



FED-PP-1: RESTORING RESILIENT REEFS ACT (RRRA)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT:

SUPPORT the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act (RRRA). This is a federal policy proposal that would provide funding to Florida to support the coral reef tract that has been plagued by the Coral Tissue Loss Disease since 2014.

BACKGROUND:

This is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral piece of legislation that modernizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, providing funding to states and territories to help implement projects and programs to help the reefs, creates an emergency program to get additional aid to areas that most need it, allows states and locals to have a greater say in the management of the restoration of the reefs, and maintains a federal NOAA reef presence to allow states and territories to still benefit from their technical expertise. The RRRA is critical to for the future of our reefs and helps ensure the nation's ecologically and economically important coral reefs persist for future generations. The Florida Reef Tract has been experiencing an outbreak of a coral disease termed Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). First reported off the coast of Miami-Dade County in 2014, this outbreak has spread along Florida and to reefs in the Caribbean, including Jamaica, Mexico, St. Maarten, the US Virgin Islands, and the Dominican Republic.

ANALYSIS:

The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract extends from Martin County down into Monroe County. These reefs directly impact fisheries as 25 percent of ocean life comes from two percent of habitat provided by coral reefs. The reefs contribute to coastal resiliency from storms and coastal erosion. The reefs are also directly related to tourism. Most of the oxygen in our atmosphere is a direct result of ocean born algae which depends on coral for survival.

FISCAL IMPACT:

From tourism to marine recreation and sport fishing, coral reefs play an important role in the economies of countries all around the world. By one estimate, coral reefs provide economic goods and services worth about \$375 billion each year. NOAA 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. The fish that grow and live on coral reefs are a significant food source for people worldwide. In the United States, about half of all federally managed fisheries depend on coral reefs. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service



estimates the annual commercial value of U.S. fisheries from coral reefs to be over \$100 million. Reef-based recreational fisheries generate over \$100 million annually in the United States.

SUBMITTING COUNTY: Martin County

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: Federal

BOARD SUPPORT: Yes

National Association of Counties (NACo) Resolutions Sponsored by Florida Members

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Resolution on Protecting the Health and Safety of Sober Home Residents

Issue: Local governments continue to see a proliferation of sober homes within their boundaries and need additional clarity from the federal government on how they can protect the health and safety of sober home residents through reasonable regulations.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.

NACo also supports federal legislation to establish patient protection and best practices for sober homes.

Sponsor(s): Melissa McKinlay, Mayor, Palm Beach County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce

Issue: The role legal immigration plays in our nation's workforce and local economies.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that provide improved and efficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local economies and maintain the area standard industry wages for the local marketplace.

Sponsor(s): Bill Truex, Commissioner, Charlotte County, Fla.; Jim Zwetzig, Commissioner, Morgan County, Colo.; Marion Greene, Commissioner, Hennepin County, Minn.; Bob Thomas, Commissioner, Franklin County, Pa.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution on Streamlining State Licensing Procedures for Military Spouses

Issue: The men and women who serve in uniform and their families experience hardships following a move when seeking employment due to licensing procedures.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Defense to implement the provisions of Public Law 115-91 to fully reimburse military spouses for costs they incur in transferring professional licenses and certifications from state to state.

Further, counties should do all that they can to support the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in encouraging states to streamline the process for granting reciprocity for military spouses who must relocate from state to state in support of our men and women in uniform as they provide for the security of our nation.

Sponsor(s): Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

Resolution Urging Congress to Provide Funding for Local Efforts to Address Coastal Water Level Changes

Issue: Addressing the threat posed by rising sea levels to the built environments of coastal communities across the country.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide appropriate financial assistance and support to local governments for coastal water level changes and increased storm surge related initiatives and projects that aim to develop adaptive solutions to these potentially devastating events.

Sponsor(s): Sally Heyman, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Court, Miami-Dade County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution in Support of Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects

Issue: Allowing local governments to purchase sand from countries outside of the U.S. to replenish shorelines due to beach erosion.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

Sponsor(s): Sally Heyman, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Court, Miami-Dade County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention and Mitigation

Issue: Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) are some of the most scientifically complex and economically damaging issues challenging our ability to

safeguard the health of our nation’s aquatic ecosystems. Almost every state in the U.S. now experiences some kind of HAB event and the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has increased 30-fold since the 1960s with over 300 aquatic life systems now impacted.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with other federal agencies to identify nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.

Sponsor(s): Doug Smith, Commissioner, Martin County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act

Issue: Coral reefs in Florida and throughout the United States and its territories are critically threatened due to increasing global and local stressors. In particular, the Florida Reef Tract, North America's only coral barrier reef, is currently facing an unprecedented coral disease outbreak.

Adopted Policy: NACo supports reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000. Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize and appropriate additional annual funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation’s coral reefs.

Sponsor(s): Doug Smith, Commissioner, Martin County, Fla.; Marty Cassini, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Broward County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation

Issue: Designating the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance and the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance, and by extension recognize the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program (NEP), per Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Furthermore, NACo urges the federal government to achieve a funding level to continue the NEP to all counties that meet a locally-significant start up program.

Sponsor(s): Robert “Bob” Cole, Commissioner, Santa Rosa County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

HEALTH

Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Suspend, Instead of Terminate, Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals

Issue: Medicaid benefits may be withdrawn when an individual is incarcerated as opposed to convicted.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that: a) amends federal law to prohibit states from terminating eligibility for individuals who are inmates of public institutions or residents of Institutes for Mental Disease (IMF) based solely on their status as inmates or residents; and b) requires states to establish a process under which an inmate or resident of an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD), who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements, is placed in a suspended status so that the state does not claim federal financial participation (FFP) for services the individual receives, but the person remains on the state's rolls as being eligible for Medicaid; and c) once release or discharge from the facility is anticipated, require states to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that an eligible individual is placed in payment status so that he or she can begin receiving Medicaid-covered services immediately upon leaving the facility.

Sponsor(s): Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County, Fla

Adopted | July 15, 2020

Resolution to Enhance Federal Resources for Veterans' Mental and Behavioral Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Issue: The COVID-19 pandemic is straining counties' ability to provide critical health resources – including key mental and behavioral health services – to veterans.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would provide additional federal resources to develop mental and behavioral health services for veterans as communities respond to increased local needs stemming from COVID-19. NACo specifically urges Congress and the administration to supplement existing mental and behavioral health services for veterans through the development of pilot programs and innovative solutions around the following key areas for veterans: depression, anxiety, suicide prevention, substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Sponsor(s): Hon. Heather Post, Councilwoman, Volusia County, Fla.

Adopted | July 15, 2020

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Resolution to Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal Immigration Laws

Issue: Maintain local control and flexibility under federal immigration laws.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the autonomy of counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of public safety priorities under federal immigration laws.

Sponsor(s): Bill Truex, Commissioner, Charlotte County, Fla.; Marion Greene, Commissioner, Hennepin County, Minn.; Tina Wenger, Councilwoman, Elkhart County, Ind.

Adopted | July 15, 2020