



# Federal Committee Agenda

---

- I. Call to Order
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Corporate Partner Recognition and Remarks
- IV. Meeting Overview
- V. Meeting Process
- VI. Consent Agenda
  - a. Retention of Existing Federal Statements adopted at the 2021 and 2022 Legislative Conference
    - A. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform
    - B. Water (Water Resources Development Act)
    - C. Upper Kissimmee Basin Water Storage Project
    - D. Federal Appropriations
    - E. Veterans
    - F. Health Care for Non-Convicted Persons
    - G. Non-Domestic Sand Sources
    - H. Low Income Housing Tax Credit
    - I. Coral Reefs
    - J. Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) Portability
    - K. Opportunity Zones
    - L. Immigration
  - b. Retention and Revision of Existing Federal Statements
    - A. Disaster Recovery & Preparedness



- B. Offshore Oil Drilling
  - C. COVID-19 Federal Support for State and Local Governments
  - c. Removal of Existing Federal Items
    - A. FEMA Flood Mapping- Risk Rating 2.0
    - B. Infrastructure
    - C. Streamline Transportation Permitting Process
  - d. Adoption of New Federal Items
    - A. FED-PP-01: Truck Weight Restrictions
    - B. FED-PP-02: ARPA Funding Recoupment
    - C. FED-PP-03: Reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
  - e. Adoption of NACo Resolutions submitted by Florida Commissioners
- VII. Guest Speaker: Jessica Jennings, NACo Legislative Director:  
Transportation and Rural Action Caucus
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjournment



## **Existing Federal Policies/Adopted (2021 and 2022)**

### **○ 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.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

#### **UPDATE:**

- Resolution in NACo's 2022-2023 American County Platform: "urging Congressional attention and action to include provisions in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure equity, address affordability, and empower counties."
- Current authorization ends on September 30, 2022. The National Flood Insurance Program Authorization and Reform Act of 2021 ([S.3128/H.R.5802](#)) was introduced in November 2021. This legislation extends NFIP for five years and tackles issues such as protecting policyholders from extreme premium increases by capping annual increases at 9%, providing affordability measures for low-and middle-income policy holders, freezing interest payments on NFIP debt, and reinvesting savings towards cost saving mitigation efforts. The bill reauthorizes the program through FY2026.
- Full implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 (RR2.0) on April 1, 2022, the implementation of RR2.0 increased 77% of policies nationwide.
- May 2022: FEMA provided a Legislative Package Reform letter to Congressional leaders that included 17 legislative proposals to reform the program.
- June 2022: The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held hearings on the reauthorization of the NFIP on June 16 and June 23. FEMA testified at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing calling on Congress to reauthorize the NFIP for a 10-year period and to consider the various reform proposals provided to Congressional leaders in May 2022.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

### **○ WATER (Water Resources Development Act)**

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.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

### **UPDATE:**

- Resolution in NACo's 2022-2023 American County Platform: "NACo supports federal matching funds for local governments to plan for and implement projects that reduce flood-damage risks and accomplish other goals under the Water Resources Development Act. NACo urges Congress to appropriate the funds needed. (page 54)
- [H.R. 7776](#)- Water Resources Development Act of 2022, passed in the House on June 8, 2022, 384-37, and in the Senate on July 28, 2022, 93-1. However, the House and Senate must now reconcile the differences between the two bills before final passage. House and Senate congressional leaders expect to pass a final bill sometime in September.
- A new WRDA is developed every two years to respond to local water resource needs and to ensure continued Congressional oversight over the Corps. Congress has enacted four consecutive WRDA bills in 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020.
- 2022 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development:  
[https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Final\\_2022%20report%20to%20congress%207001\\_2FEB2022%20wTables.pdf](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Final_2022%20report%20to%20congress%207001_2FEB2022%20wTables.pdf)
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

### ○ **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 - 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.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

### **UPDATE:**

- As discussed above, H.R. 7776- Water Resources Development Act of 2022, includes a section on Feasibility Reports. S. 203 (a): "The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a feasibility study for each of the following projects: (21): Project for ecosystem



restoration, Lake Okeechobee, Florida, (22): Project for ecosystem restoration, Western Everglades, Florida.

- H.R. 7776, S. 212. Upper St. Johns River Basin, Central and Southern Florida: at the request of the St. Johns River Water Management District evaluation of the Upper St. Johns River, Central and Southern Florida for flood control and other purposes.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

- **DISASTER RECOVERY & PREPAREDNESS**

SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the ~~Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program~~ Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 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 expedited 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.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: REVISE AND RETAIN**

**\*\*NOTE: ONLY NEED TO EDIT THE NAME OF THE PROGRAM**

### **UPDATE:**

- Resolutions in NACo's 2022-2023 American County Platform:
  - "Resolution on FY 2023 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: "no less than \$4.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
  - "Resolution in Support of Increased Flexibility for Building Code Requirements in FEMA's BRIC Program Scoring Criteria" (Page 164)
- 2022 Report to Congress Recent Funding Increases for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11733>
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be revised and retained by the committee.

- **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.—~~

**Recommended new policy statement:** SUPPORT keeping Florida's east coast free from offshore drilling and OPPOSE inclusion of Florida from offshore leasing in the proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: REVISE AND RETAIN**

### **UPDATE:**

- The GOMESA Moratorium:
  - The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 banned oil and gas leasing within 125 miles off the Florida Coastline in the Eastern Planning Area, portion of the Central Planning Area, until June 2022.
  - The Department of Interior had begun plans for offshore leasing in the moratorium area after the expiration date.
  - In 2019, the House passed H.R.205 Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019 which would have permanently extended the moratorium on oil and gas leasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Florida. Congressional Report: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46195>
- **Staff Recommendation:** Due to the timeline, this proposal appears out of date & a new proposal should be adopted to support keeping Florida's east coast (Gulf of Mexico) free from offshore drilling & to keep Florida out of consideration in the next draft of the proposed plan. Staff recommends the Committee adopt a policy statement that reads as follows: SUPPORT keeping Florida's east coast free from off shore drilling and OPPOSE inclusion of Florida from offshore leasing in the proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
- U.S. Department of Interior: <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/energy-economics/gulf-mexico-energy-security-act-gomesa>
- The Biden administration proposed a five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program, which opened for a 90-day public comment period on July 1, 2022. President Biden placed a moratorium on the Trump's administration lease plan in 2021. The new proposed plan is likely not to be finalized until 2023. The proposed plan may be accessed at: [https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/national-program/2023-2028\\_Proposed%20Program\\_July2022.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/national-program/2023-2028_Proposed%20Program_July2022.pdf)



- The proposal lists out lease options, including one sale in the Straits of Florida Program Area, or no sales within the Straits of Florida Program Area.
- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) reinstates an oil and gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico and requires the U.S. Department of Interior to conduct three additional lease sales: 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be revised and retained by the committee.

○ **FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS**

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:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades' restoration, port & inlet construction, maintenance, and beach nourishment (USACOE)
- Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant program (CSBG)
- Social Services Block Grant program (SSBG)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- [H.R. 2471](#)- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, passed by Congress and signed by the President in March 2022 funded the above programs at the levels below, which includes funding amounts in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that passed in November 2021.
  - USACOE – FY 2022: \$8.343 Billion (\$2.492 for Project Construction; and \$4.57B for Operations and Maintenance);
  - CDBG – FY 2022: 3.3 Billion;
  - CSBG – FY 2022: \$787.383 Million;
  - SSBG – FY 2022: \$1.7 Billion;
  - EDA - FY 2022: \$373.5 Million; and
  - SCAAP – FY 2022: \$234 Million.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

○ **VETERANS**



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.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- Resolution in NACo’s 2022-2023 American County Platform: “Initiative to End Veteran Homelessness”- NACo supports the goal of ending homelessness among veterans and military families. (Page 27)
- 2021-2022 Bills:
  - [H.R.6677](#) - To amend the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 to modify the eligibility requirements for entities collaborating with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide case management services to homeless veterans under the Veterans Affairs supported housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
  - [H.R.6810](#) - Housing our Veterans Act - This bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on the availability of affordable housing for veterans who have or are participating in any program administered by the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

- **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.~~

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- This proposal is no longer needed as FEMA has implemented Risk Rating 2.0. Facts sheets and additional information about the current NFIP is designed to adjust flood insurance rates to reflect each structure’s unique flood risk is available at <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating>
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended not to be retained by the committee.
- 

- **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.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN

### UPDATE:

- Resolution in NACo's 2022-2023 American County Platform: "Resolution to Amend the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy in the Federal Social Security Act" - urges Congress to amend the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy in the Social Security Act, allowing pre-trial detainees to access Medicaid services while awaiting trial. (Page 109)
- 2021 Bills:
  - [S.2697](#)- Due Process Continuity of Care Act: This bill allows an otherwise eligible individual who is in custody pending disposition of charges (i.e., pretrial detainees) to receive Medicaid benefits at the option of the state. The bill also provides funds for state planning grants to support the provision of such benefits.
  - [H.R. 955/S. 285](#)- Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021: This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release.
- NACO Letter to Senate Finance Committee on Behavioral Health Policy: <https://naco.sharefile.com/share/view/scbe15f5b869f429f9f7d7a0f60f3fa7f>
- NACO and NSA Joint Task Force Report recommends amending Section 1905(a)(A) of the Social Security Act to allow for the continuation of federal benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Plan for pre-trial detainees: <https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/naco-nsa-joint-task-force-report-addressing-federal-medicaid-inmate-exclusion-policy>
- FAC's HSJ Guiding Principle #47. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide Medicaid eligibility for persons incarcerated in county jails while waiting disposition of their cases and to ensure that existing Medicaid benefits are not terminated during incarceration.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.
- 

- **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.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN

### UPDATE:



- Resolution in NACo's 2022-2023 American County Platform: Resolution Supporting Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects "Allowing local governments to purchase sand from countries outside of the U.S. to replenish shoreline due to beach erosion." The policy allows 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.
- Since 1956, the U.S. Army Corps has been authorized to carry out beach nourishment for shoreline protection. The Corps has participated in approx. 350 miles of shoreline, including on the Gulf coasts.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.
- **COVID-19 FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

~~SUPPORT the continuation of funding to state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.~~

**Recommended new policy statement:** SUPPORT the continuation and flexibility for state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts and services from the COVID-19 pandemic through recovery funds.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: REVISE AND RETAIN**

#### **UPDATE:**

- This proposal was adopted in 2020 to support the CARES Act passed on March 4, 2020.
- Since the American Rescue Plan Act was passed there has not been an update to this policy, and there is ongoing federal legislation, such as the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure and Disaster Relief Act (S.3011/H.R. 5735) that would provide additional flexibility within transportation, infrastructure, economic development, and disaster relief recovery funds.
- **Staff Recommendation:** The proposal could be updated to say. "**SUPPORT** the continuation and flexibility for state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts and services from the COVID-19 pandemic through recovery funds.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be revised and retained by the committee.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**

~~SUPPORT federal legislation that would create a National Infrastructure Bank where infrastructure is backed by private investment (bonds, etc.)~~



**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, they would provide over \$973 billion in funding over five years in transportation, water, broadband, energy and power, environmental remediation, western water infrastructure, and resiliency. Due to the passage of this massive infrastructure bill this policy is no longer needed.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended not to be retained by the committee.

- **LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT**

SUPPORT legislation expanding the 4% and 9% tax credits of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program to encourage more private development of affordable housing units.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program is a federal affordable housing program established under 26 U.S.C. §42. Unlike traditional affordable housing programs, the LIHTC program itself does not include rental assistance or any other type of direct government expenditure. Instead, private investors fund a portion of project costs in exchange for a tax credit that is claimed over the course of 10 years. There are two types of tax credits: 4% and 9% credits.
- In Florida, The Florida Housing Finance Corporation administers the Low-Income Tax Credit program. The competitive (9%) and non-competitive (4%) Housing Credits program provides nonprofit and for-profit developers with federal tax credits.
- In its 2021 Annual Report, the FHFC summarizes the program's activities as follows:
  - \$69,304,672 in competitive (9%) housing credits was allocated in 2021. 3,682 units were funded (3,583 units will be set aside as affordable).
  - \$57,430,143 in non-competitive (4%) housing credits was allocated in 2021. A total of 6,004 units were funded (6,004 units will be set aside as affordable).
- <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/what-low-income-housing-tax-credit-and-how-does-it-work>
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

- **CORAL REEFS**



SUPPORT the State of Florida delegation working with the State of Hawaii delegation, and other delegations represented on the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, to hold a Congressional hearing on the status, trends, and urgent issues facing the U.S.'s coral reefs. SUPPORT reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000, and additional recurring funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation's coral reefs. Also, recommend that NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), in coordination with the states and territories, update the economic value of coral reefs for each region and establish a regular update schedule for these studies.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

#### **UPDATE:**

- Adopted by NACo and submitted as a Florida resolution (within the Florida Resolutions adopted by NACo). Both submitted by Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County, Florida. Ongoing issue.
- [H.R. 6738](#) – Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020 (Introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress). This bill sets forth requirements concerning the conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems, including to reauthorize through FY2025 and expand the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, reauthorize through FY2025 the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology program, and establish the Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies Program. The bill was introduced in the House on May 8, 2020, referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. On May 21, 2020, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.
- 
- **STREAMLINE TRANSPORTATION PERMITTING PROCESS**

~~SUPPORT legislation and other actions to streamline the federal permitting processes for transportation projects to reduce project study periods, accelerate project delivery, and achieve financial cost-savings for taxpayers, while protecting the environment and natural resources.~~

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT RETAIN**

#### **UPDATE:**

- On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The law includes provisions to streamline the federal permitting process for transportation infrastructure projects.
- May 2022: The Biden Administration released an Action Plan to strengthen and accelerate the Federal permitting and environmental reviews, leveraging the permitting provisions in the BIL. Plan lays out new provisions and timeline requirements in the BIL (Section 11301 One Federal Decision).



- The Action Plan contains five key elements that build on strengthened Federal approaches to environmental reviews and permitting:
  - (1) Accelerating permitting through early cross-agency coordination to appropriately scope reviews, reduce bottlenecks, and use the expertise of sector-specific teams;
  - (2) Establishing clear timeline goals and tracking key project information to improve transparency and accountability, providing increased certainty for project sponsors and the public;
  - (3) Engaging in early and meaningful outreach and communication with Tribal Nations, States, territories, and local communities;
  - (4) Improving agency responsiveness, technical assistance, and support to navigate the environmental review and permitting process effectively and efficiently; and
  - (5) Adequately resourcing agencies and using the environmental review process to improve environmental and community outcomes.
  - The Biden-Harris Permitting Action Plan: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Biden-Harris-Permitting-Action-Plan.pdf>
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended not to be retained by the committee.

- **HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (SECTION 8) PORTABILITY**

SUPPORT legislation to reform the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program's mobility feature by eliminating the negative fiscal impact to an initial Public Housing Agency (i.e., the PHA that initially issued the HCV to a family) that results when a voucher family moves to a high-cost area and the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA to administer the voucher instead of absorbing the moving family into its (i.e., the receiving PHA) program.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

**UPDATE:**

- The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is authorized by section 8(o) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. §1473f(o)), as amended, and the HCV program regulations are found in 24 CFR part 982. Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs).
- No updated information on this so keep the policy.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

- **OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

SUPPORT legislation allowing county governments to select additional eligible census tracts within the limits of their boundaries to be designated as opportunity zones when an existing



opportunity zone does not attract investment or is subject to documented insufficient investment.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

### **UPDATE:**

- The Opportunity Zone Program aims to foster economic development and job creation in economically distressed communities. According to the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, 52 million Americans live in economically distressed communities, including 35 million who reside in Opportunity Zones. A lack of investment has contributed to this economic distress, and the lack of access to economic opportunity can result in high unemployment rates, stagnant wages, low graduation rates, unsafe neighborhoods, and shorter life expectancy.
- To assist these distressed communities, Qualified Opportunity Zones were introduced in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Act) in 2017. A total of 427 Qualified Opportunity Zones are designated in Florida and located in every county in the state, stretching from the Panhandle through the Florida Keys. DEO The Opportunity Zone Program: <https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones>
- Financial benefits: Taxes are deferred on capital gains rolled into Qualified Opportunity Zone Funds and the original tax bill through December 31, 2026, or the sale of the Opportunity Zone investment, whichever is earlier.
- October 2021: Opportunity Zones: Census Tract Designations, Investment Activities, and IRS Challenges Ensuring Taxpayer Compliance Congressional Report: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-104019.pdf>
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.

### ○ **IMMIGRATION**

SUPPORT federal legislation that establishes a secure border, but ensures a reasonable and workable process for individuals who desire to better their economic prosperity to apply to come and work in the US, especially those in the agricultural and hospitality industries.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RETAIN**

### **UPDATE:**

- President Biden's has issued many Executive Actions on Immigrations, to view the following actions: <https://cmsny.org/biden-immigration-executive-actions/>
- President Biden priorities are found within his bill the "U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021." The bill was introduced but no action has taken place.
- The Act, among many other things, would:



- Allow undocumented individuals to apply for temporary legal status with the ability to apply for green cards after five years if they pass background checks and pay their taxes;
- Reform the family-based immigration system;
- Funding for training and continuing education to promote agent and officer training.
- To view the full Fact Sheet: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/fact-sheet-president-biden-sends-immigration-bill-to-congress-as-part-of-his-commitment-to-modernize-our-immigration-system/>
- NACo includes Immigration Reform within its American County Platform and encourages Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform that secures the border and establishes coordination with federal, state, and local authorities (page 132).
- Ongoing issue.
- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - The existing proposal was recommended to be retained by the committee.







## FED-PP-01: TRUCK WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

**PROPOSED POLICY:** OPPOSE legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law due to safety concerns and potential impacts to local roads.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2015, the U.S Senate voted on a bipartisan basis to maintain the current federal limits of double tractor-trailer lengths on the interstates and the entire National Highway System, including interstates. The vote was to oppose longer double-trailer trucks called Double 33s that are 10 feet longer than today's twin-trailers and 17 feet longer than the standard single-trailer trucks.

In 2015, the U.S. House voted on a bipartisan basis to maintain the federal limits of tractor-trailer weights on the interstates and the entire National Highway System. The vote was to allow an increase at the federal of truck weight by over 5 tons, from the current 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds for a 10 state, 15-year pilot project.

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) delivered its three-year Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Limits Study Report requested by Congress. That report found that heavier and longer trucks had serious safety problems and would impose additional costs to highway infrastructure. The Department recommended that Congress not approve any heavier trucks.

In July 2022 two bills were introduced in the United States Congress which would mandate allowing tractor-trailers to increase their weight limits from the current 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds (H.R. 8412) and Twin-33 trucks, which are 10 feet longer than today's 28-foot double-trailers and 17 feet longer than standard single-trailer trucks (H.R. 8411).

**ANALYSIS:** The volume of traffic on I-75 in Alachua County is getting worse every year. The stretch of I-75 in Alachua County is one of the most dangerous spots in the state even so much that FDOT has created an I-75 relief task force committee. Just in Alachua County, we saw 5 large truck related fatalities in 2020.

Preliminary data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's annual reporting show that there were 8,178 large-truck crashes in Florida in 2020. Unfortunately, these crashes resulted in 344 fatalities and 3,850 injuries.

Of the 12,680 bridges in Florida, 4,628 bridges are rated in poor or fair condition, over a third of bridges' statewide (FHWA). Over 40% of bridges in Alachua County are in fair or poor condition.



#### Safety issues with bigger tractor-trailers:

- A 2000 USDOT trucks size and weight study found that multi-trailer trucks have an 11% higher fatal crash rate compared to single-trailer trucks.
- The 2016 USDOT truck size and weight study found that double 33s take 252 feet to stop that is 17 feet longer stopping distance than today's single-trailer trucks and 22 feet longer than today's twin-trailer trucks
- The 2016 USDOT study also found that trucks weighing over 80,000 pounds had higher overall out-of-service (OOS) rates and 18 percent higher brake violation rates compared to those at or below 80,000 pounds. This is especially important because a 2016 study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that trucks with any out-of-service violation are 362 percent more likely to be involved in a crash.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** USDOT found in its 2016 study that thousands of Interstate and other National Highway System bridges could not accommodate heavier trucks. These bridges would need to be reinforced or replaced, costing billions of dollars. USDOT estimates the 97,000-pound, six-axle configuration would negatively affect more than 6,200 bridges, costing \$2.2 billion. They also found 2,500 bridges that would need to be strengthened or replaced to handle longer double-trailer traffic with a cost of \$1.1 billion. It is important to note that this examination did not include hundreds of thousands of bridges nationwide that are not on the National Highway System that these longer and heavier trucks would utilize.

According to the 2016 USDOT study, Double 33s would increase pavement damage by 1.8 percent to 2.7 percent. which translates to \$1.2 to \$1.8 billion in estimated pavement damage every year. Similarly, this was specific to National Highway System roadways and not inclusive of county roads, which tend to be built to higher standards than county roads.

A total of 30% of Florida's major roads were evaluated to be in poor or mediocre condition. Driving on these roads in need of repair costs Florida motorists a total of \$6.7 billion a year averaging out to \$432 per driver. These costs are due to vehicle repairs, depreciations in vehicle value, increased fuel use and wear on tires. (TRIP Reports, 2022).

#### **FAC STAFF NOTES:**

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - FED-PP-01 was recommended for adoption by the committee.
- A similar proposal, *truck/weights size* was adopted in 2016-2017 FAC Legislative Program: Due to safety concerns and potential impacts to local roads, FAC OPPOSES legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law.



- Under NACo's Statement of Basic Philosophy under Transportation, there is a section on "Trucks and Vehicle Size and Weights (2022-2023 NACo American County Platform): "NACo believes adequate federal funding should be provided to compensate state and local governments for any infrastructure upgrades necessary to accommodate the vehicle size, weight, and configurations mandated by Congress. NACo opposes any increases in truck size or weight until Congress requires a full impact analysis that any increases may have on the national transportation system, including the added cost on state and local governments. NACo supports full funding of these impacts by Congress and expects Congress to fund any additional impacts suffered by local infrastructure in Congress' performing of the analysis. NACo also supports the continued requirement that all trucks have underride protection devices and believes that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration should periodically review the adequacy of such regulations.
- Congress last increased the federal weight limit in 1982.
- Resources discussed in background: U.S. Department of Transportation Highway Safety and Truck Crash Comparative Analysis Technical Report (2016):  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/531e242be4b045034d6e888d/t/55a6b706e4b0d7358dbfa20a/1436989190037/2015+USDOT+Technical+Reports+-+Safety.pdf>

**SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT:** Alachua – Ken Cornell  
[kcornell@alachuacounty.us](mailto:kcornell@alachuacounty.us) (352) 264-6900

**ASSIGNED COMMITTEE:** FED

**BOARD SUPPORT:** Yes

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:** No

**PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE:** Yes





## FED-PP-02: ARPA FUNDING RECOUPMENT

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

**PROPOSED POLICY:** SUPPORT legislation to prohibit the U.S Department of Treasury from recouping previously awarded funds for projects and services that have been certified as complete, for at least three years, which will be 2029.

SUPPORT the implementation of a statute of limitations for the remediation and recoupment of funds directly allocated to Counties under the American Rescue Act.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law. The American Rescue Plan Act, specifically the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), provided historical investments for Florida's counties to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Among many allowable uses, the Act helped those most in need, including providing affordable housing assistance, loans to small business owners, aid to Florida's crucial tourism industry, governmental services impacted by reduced revenue, and many key infrastructure investments, such as water, sewer, and broadband.

The \$1.9 trillion package is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. As part of the \$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$65.1 billion is provided in direct aid to counties and \$65.1 billion to all municipalities. In addition, the American Rescue Plan Act allocated hundreds of billions of dollars for public health and vaccines, assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals.

As it states in the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Final Rule, the U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary has the power to recoup these funds according to Sections 602(e) and 603(e) of the Social Security Act.

In 2018, FAC along with the National Association of Counties, collaborated on a successful campaign to implement a three-year statute of limitations for the de-obligation of previously awarded public assistance for natural disasters. This provision could be used as a reference for this initiative.

**ANALYSIS:** Under the Final Rule, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. Recipients of the funds must comply with the requirements and eligible uses under the Final Rule. Additionally, recipients must comply with mandatory periodic reports to U.S. Treasury. If funds are found in violation of the Final Rule, the recipient is



subject to remediation and recoupment. Recoupment is defined as the recovery or collection of money that was previously unduly paid out.

As noted, Sections 602(e) and 603(e) of the Social Security Act allow the Secretary to recoup funds used in violation of the Social Security Act. If a potential violation is identified, Treasury will provide the recipient with an initial written notice of the amount along with an explanation of the amount. The said, a recipient has 60 calendar days following the recoupment notice to submit a request for reconsideration containing any information it believes supports its use of funds. Within 60 calendar days of receipt of the request for reconsideration, the recipient will receive notice of the Secretary's decision to affirm, withdraw, or modify the recoupment notice.

Recoupment of SLFRF funds past a certain timeframe or years after completion of a project, could lead to similar problems faced by Florida counties with de-obligation under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Act. The purpose of this proposal is to prevent years of remediation and recoupment obligations and to have a reasonable timeframe for Florida's counties to handle outstanding issues with the SLRF funds.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The recoupment of expended American Rescue Plan Act funds will be fiscally detrimental to all Counties across the nation.

**FAC STAFF NOTES:**

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - FED-PP-02 was recommended for adoption by the committee.
  
- The Final Rule recoupment provision:
  - The Remediation and Recoupment provision in the Final Rule is located on page 374-378. Please note, that the recipient may submit a request for reconsideration concerning any amounts identified in a notice provided by Treasury. Treasury retains the ability to expediate or extend timelines on any adjunction or pre-adjudication process pursuant to s.35.4(b) of the final rule.
  - Treasury has clarified that a recipient must invoke and exhaust the procedures available under s.35.10 of the final rule prior to seeking judicial review of a recoupment decision.

The Final Rule:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf>

- Past recoupment debacles: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act
  - Funds were provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act. Primarily driven by the 2004-2005 hurricanes.
  - More than \$130 million was scheduled to be de-obligated from local entities that were impacted by severe storms during the last 10 years. For example,

- DeSoto county faced de-obligations totaling \$1.154 million from recovery work that occurred nearly a decade ago.
  - Just to name a few of the other counties impacted by the de-obligations of disaster funds: Miami-Dade (14 million), Broward County (17 million), Collier County (11 million)
  - A few challenges faced under the de-obligations under the Stafford Act included:
    - Recoupment was detrimental to a county's total budget without preparation or notice;
    - Difficult to provide backed up documents for projects that were sometimes 7 years old within a period of days or face de-obligation;
    - Unreasonable timelines and arbitrary deadlines; and
    - Frustrations existed with FEMA's appeal process and the number of different staff interactions and FEMA's failure to comply with the mandatory appeal response timelines.
  - [The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act, as amended. May 2021.](#)
- Past FAC Statements:
  - Since 2015, FAC and its member counties sought a change to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that amended the 3-year statute of limitations on de-obligations from the close of the disaster declaration to the close of an actual project. This statute of limitations language promoted by FAC passed the U.S. House of Representatives three times, dating back to 2016 and legislation was filed by Senator Nelson and Rubio.
  - FAC's response to the de-obligation of previously awarded public assistance for natural disasters included letters with partnership organizations (FLC, NACo) to FEMA and members of Congress (U.S. Senate). Additionally, FAC provided written comments to FEMA on s.705 of the Stafford Act.
  - A policy regarding FEMA de-obligations was adopted in 2016-2017 FAC Legislative Program: **Federal Disaster Assistance: SUPPORT** legislation that prohibits the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from de-obligating from counties previously awarded disaster funds for projects that have been certified complete by the state for at least three years.
  - Staff Recommendation: Adopt & work with the National Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, the Florida Congressional Delegation, and other partnerships to develop a campaign (letters, public comments) like that of the FEMA relief money before counties run into similar de-obligation issues with the U.S. Department of Treasury.
- Legislation Response to FEMA De-obligation: *The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018*
  - The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) established statutes of limitation for the recoupment of federal assistance provided to individuals and households, and to PA Applicants. DRRA s.1216 (b) established a three-year statute of limitations on FEMA's ability to recoup IHP assistance received more than three years before FEMA provided notice of intent to recoup the funds. The



Act included provision to “ensure that FEMA initiates any collection actions as quickly as possible...and provide more certainty to individuals recovering from disasters.”

- Additionally, the DRRRA Section 1216(c) changed the start of the three-year statute of limitations so that recovery payments could not be initiated “after the date that is 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for project completion” rather than the final expenditure report for the disaster or emergency.
- Prior to DRRRA, FEMA could potentially recoup funding from projects completed and closed because the disaster was still open.
- The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA): Implementation Updates for Select Provisions: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46776/3>

**SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT:** St. Lucie – Nicole Fogarty  
[fogartyn@stlucieco.org](mailto:fogartyn@stlucieco.org) (772) 462-6406

**ASSIGNED COMMITTEE:** FED

**BOARD SUPPORT:** Yes

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:** No

**PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE:** Yes





## FEDERAL-PP-03: REAUTHORIZATION OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

**PROPOSED POLICY:** SUPPORT reauthorization of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local workforce programs; OPPOSE redefining local workforce development board member participation to increase percentage of union representation due to the shortfall of union representation in the state.

**BACKGROUND:** On May 17, 2022, The U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 7309, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2022. The bill is presently awaiting Senate action. This bill aims to reauthorize and strengthen the primary federal law—the WIOA of 2014—governing the nation’s workforce development system.

As passed by the U.S. House, H.R. 7309 would:

- Fully fund WIOA programs by authorizing \$78 billion over six years, which will allow the workforce system to train one million workers per year by 2028;
- Establish a permanent Department of Labor program to help individuals released from incarceration transition back to employment and access sustainable career pathways;
- Expand summer and year-round jobs programs for youth;
- Strengthen the quality of the Jobs Corps program;
- Codify partnerships between employers and community colleges to provide high-quality job training;
- Strengthen industry and sector partnerships to better meet the needs of both employers and job seekers; and
- Provide funding for innovative approaches to workforce development.

**ANALYSIS:** The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the economy, forced millions of workers into unemployment or underemployment, and left employers with millions of unfilled jobs. Increasing workforce support services, providing greater flexibility in the use of federal workforce development funds, retooling current performance metrics, and expanding access to job training programs will encourage individuals and employers to adapt and become more competitive in today’s marketplace.

Section 207 of H.R. 7309 make various changes to the membership requirements of local workforce development boards by, among other things, increasing the potential share of labor organizations on local boards to 30 percent. However, in regions of the state, this requirement may affect board membership/participation due to the lack of unions and negatively impact the operations of local workforce development boards in certain areas of the state. Therefore, this particular change should be opposed.



**FISCAL IMPACT:** Indeterminate.

**FAC STAFF NOTES:**

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference
  - FED-PP-03 was recommended for adoption by the committee.
  
- [The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) was enacted by Congress in 2014. The Act consists of five titles that authorize the following programs, services, and activities:
  - *TITLE I, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:*  
Title I establishes WIOA's state and local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and the one-stop career centers known as American Job Centers (AJCs). Localities work through AJCs to provide career services to residents. Title I additionally specifies how federal WIOA funds flow down to states and localities.
  - *TITLE II, ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACT:*  
Administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Title II programs serve individuals with barriers to employment, including immigrants, English language-learners and low-income individuals. Title II funding supports adult literacy and basic skills training for employment and postsecondary education.
  - *TITLE III, AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT:*  
Title III integrates the federal Employment Service (ES) into WIOA's one-stop delivery systems, or American Job Centers (AJCs). Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA), ES offices within AJCs offer resources such as job search assistance, career placement and reemployment support for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants.
  - *TITLE IV, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES:*  
Title IV defines how U.S. Department of Education (ED) funding is allotted to states. This title also authorizes funding for vocational rehabilitation services, with a special focus on improving economic prospects and independent living opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Services may include career coaching, interpreter assistance and funding for books and tuition.
  - *TITLE V, GENERAL PROVISIONS:*  
Title V outlines WIOA program administration and federal and state data reporting requirements.
  
- Under the Act states and counties administer six core WIOA programs, which include adult services, dislocated workers services, youth services, adult education and literacy, rehabilitation services, and services to jobseekers and employers under the Wagner-Peyser Act.
  
- Federal funding is allocated to the state's designated workforce agency (DEO) through a noncompetitive formula grant. The designated state agency distributes federal dollars to local workforce development boards. The funding formula considers factors such as a state's total population, unemployment rate, poverty level, and WIOA resources necessary to serve a state's residents.
  
- States are required to submit a unified or combined state plan to USDOL outlining a four-year strategy for implementing the state's workforce development system. The Act further requires local workforce development boards (WDBs) submit a four-year plan to the designated state



agency which, among other things, describes the local area's workforce development strategic plan and funding priorities.

- The WIOA expired on September 30, 2020 and has not been reauthorized; although, Congress has continued to fund the workforce development programs.

**SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT:** Pasco County/Commissioner Kathryn Starkey

**ASSIGNED COMMITTEE:** CUA

**BOARD SUPPORT:** N/A

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:** No

**PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE:** Yes





## Florida Resolutions Adopted by NACo (2022- 2023)

### Telecommunications & Technology Resolutions

- *Resolution to Support Federal Solutions to the “Homework Gap,” Commissioner Terry Burroughs of Okeechobee County, Florida.*

#### **Resolution to Support Federal Solutions to the “Homework Gap”**

**Issue:** Given the ever-increasing need for digital connectivity for children to successfully complete their schoolwork, the “homework gap” is leading to inequities in education in counties across America, which negatively impacts child development, the success of our economies and the quality of living in our communities.

**Adopted Policy:** To address internet affordability and adoption issues in K-12 education known as the “homework gap,” the National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide additional resources to extend the Emergency Connectivity Fund while exploring permanent solutions to provide high quality, subsidized and discounted internet and computer access to low-income K-12 students through a shared cost formula spread between providers, families, and the federal government.

- *Resolution to Support a Permanent Federal Broadband Assistance Program, Commissioner Terry Burroughs of Okeechobee County, Florida.*

#### **Resolution to Support a Permanent Federal Broadband Assistance Program**

**Issue:** Congress authorized the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 to subsidize monthly internet access and one-time equipment purchases for eligible low-income households. However, resources for the ACP are temporary, meaning families currently benefitting from this service will lose access once funds are exhausted.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to permanently authorize and fund the ACP to ensure that low-income county residents can continue to afford internet service while holding participating Internet Service Providers accountable for providing appropriate levels of quality, affordable service to eligible households. Any new resources for the should incorporate substantial outreach and education efforts, in partnership with local governments, to ensure eligible residents are taking advantage of the program.



## **Health Resolutions**

- *Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Suspend, Instead of Terminate, Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals, Sally Heyman, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, Fla.*

### **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 (IMD) 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 IMD facility, 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.

## **Environment, Energy and Land Use Resolutions**

- *Proposed Resolution on the Inclusion of Waste-to-Energy, Melissa McKinlay, Commissioner, Palm Beach County, Fla.*

### **Proposed Resolution on the Inclusion of Waste-to-Energy**

**Issue:** Local governments have invested billions of dollars in waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities as an environmentally conscientious alternative to landfilling. Unfavorable treatment of WTE by the federal government in upcoming legislation could be detrimental to the financial viability of WTE and hinder the expansion of WTE, and its benefits, in the United States.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the inclusion of WTE in the Production Tax Credit, the Clean Energy Standard, climate programs, and other related policies without any unnecessary restrictions or hurdles.



- *Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act, Doug Smith, Commissioner, Martin County, Fla*

## **Proposed 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:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the State of Florida delegation working with the State of Hawaii delegation, and other delegations represented on the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, to hold a Congressional hearing on the status, trends, and urgent issues facing the U.S.'s coral reefs. NACo also supports reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000, and additional recurring funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation's coral reefs.

- *Proposed Resolution Supporting Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects, Doug Smith, Commissioner, Martin County, Fla.; Sally Heyman, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, Fla.*

## **Supporting 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.

- *Proposed Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation, Robert "Bob" Cole, Commissioner, Santa Rosa County, Fla.*

## **Proposed Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation**

**Issue:** Designating the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance and the Pensacola & 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) Administrator to designate the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance, and by extension, recognize the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program, 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 the requirements of a locally-significant start up program.