

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(34)

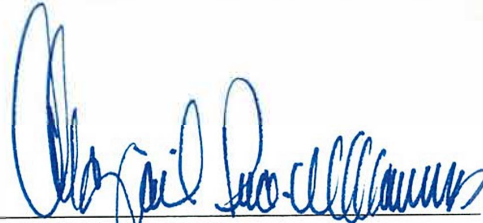
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 5, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 6185, the Save Our Springs Act of 2020, or similar legislation that would impose a tax on water extracted from a spring or underground water source for use as bottled drinking water

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 5, 2020

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County Attorney

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(34)

Veto _____

5-5-20

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT H.R. 6185, THE SAVE OUR SPRINGS ACT OF 2020,
OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD IMPOSE A TAX
ON WATER EXTRACTED FROM A SPRING OR
UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCE FOR USE AS BOTTLED
DRINKING WATER

WHEREAS, the bottled-water industry has long benefited from a widespread practice, both in Florida and nationwide, of extracting water from public springs and underground water sources, at virtually no cost, for the purpose of bottling water for sale; and

WHEREAS, the water in our state and national aquifers and other water bodies does not exist solely to support the profits of the bottled-water industry or even the drinking water needs of consumers; rather, these aquifers and other water bodies play complex, critical roles in our societies and ecosystems, with functions vital to water-quality management, flood control, wildlife conservation, tourism, recreation, and other important matters; and

WHEREAS, while bottled water provides a convenient and at times necessary means of obtaining drinking water, use of bottled water instead of tap water can have negative impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, for example, over 80 percent of plastic water bottles used in the United States become garbage or litter rather than recycled or reused material; and

WHEREAS, producing enough bottles of water to meet annual demands in the United States for bottled water requires using more than 17 million barrels of oil, a nonrenewable resource; and

WHEREAS, to protect the natural environment, to preserve water resources, and to promote sustainability, the bottled-water industry should have to pay a fair price for their private use of public water resources; and

WHEREAS, House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 6185, entitled the Save Our Springs Act of 2020, was filed for consideration during the 116th Congress by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D – Florida); and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs Act of 2020 would impose a tax of \$0.06 on each gallon of water extracted from a spring or underground water source for use as bottled drinking water, and the tax would be paid by the person extracting the water; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs Act of 2020 would establish in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to which the tax revenues received under the Save Our Springs Act of 2020 would be appropriated; and

WHEREAS, amounts in the trust fund would be available for federal investments to improve state and local drinking water systems; and

WHEREAS, for the benefit of the people, the environment, and the public drinking water systems of Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida, and the United States, this Board wishes to urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 6185, the Save Our Springs Act of 2020, or similar legislation that would impose a tax on water extracted from a spring or underground water source for use as bottled drinking water,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 6185, the Save Our Springs Act of 2020, or similar legislation that would impose a tax on water extracted from a spring or underground water source for use as bottled drinking water.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz and the remaining members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. It 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:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Sally A. Heyman
Eileen Higgins	Barbara J. Jordan
Joe A. Martinez	Jean Monestime
Dennis C. Moss	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of May, 2020. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl

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