

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


**DATE:** March 3, 2026

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (the "SPEED Act"), or similar legislation that would streamline review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and ensure that counties may contribute to NEPA reviews

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.

  
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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
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 \_\_\_\_, majority plus one \_\_\_\_, 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) \_\_\_\_, 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  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)  
3-3-26

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT H.R. 4776, THE STANDARDIZING PERMITTING AND EXPEDITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT (THE “SPEED ACT”), OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD STREAMLINE REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) AND ENSURE THAT COUNTIES MAY CONTRIBUTE TO NEPA REVIEWS

**WHEREAS**, enacted over fifty years ago, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides that, for certain projects built, funded, or approved by the federal government (referred to as “major federal actions”), the applicable federal agencies must prepare an environmental impact statement (“EIS”) addressing the project’s significant environmental effects and identifying feasible alternatives that could mitigate those effects; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, NEPA has helped federal decision-making be more environmentally conscious and, ultimately, more protective of the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, at the same time, however, decades of NEPA litigation by project opponents have at times led to expansive judicial interpretations of NEPA, which have in turn induced federal agencies to sometimes conduct more extensive, more resource-intensive, and ultimately more time-intensive environmental analyses, which can result in substantial project delays and other negative consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*, 605 U.S. 168 (2025), described the situation as follows: “Fewer projects make it to the finish line. Indeed, fewer projects make it to the starting line. Those that survive often end up costing much more than is anticipated or necessary, both for

the agency preparing the EIS and for the builder of the project. And that in turn means fewer and more expensive railroads, airports, wind turbines, transmission lines, dams, housing developments, highways, bridges, subways, stadiums, arenas, data centers, and the like. And that also means fewer jobs, as new projects become difficult to finance and build in a timely fashion.”; and

**WHEREAS**, by underscoring the deference courts owe to agencies under NEPA, *Seven County* brought NEPA litigation back to its first principles, but the Supreme Court has not been the only federal actor of late to critically reexamine NEPA’s role in the federal ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 25, 2025, United States Representatives Bruce Westerman (R – Arkansas) and Jared F. Golden (D – Maine) introduced H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (the “SPEED Act”), for consideration during the 119th Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the SPEED Act would amend NEPA to streamline review and thereby promote speedier and more efficient economic development nationwide, including by:

- Specifying that an agency may not determine that an action requires NEPA review based solely on the provision of federal funds;
- Excluding from the requirement for NEPA review certain actions that have already been sufficiently reviewed under another federal, state, or tribal environmental review statute;
- Directing an agency, when conducting NEPA review, to consider only those effects proximately caused by the immediate project or action under consideration, and not to consider effects that are speculative, attenuated from the project or action, separate in time or place from the project or action, or in relation to separate projects or actions;
- Setting clear deadlines to complete reviews;

- Allowing agencies to reuse previously conducted NEPA reviews for projects that are “substantially the same” or to modify existing reviews for new projects; and
- Clarifying that NEPA is “a purely procedural statute” that “does not mandate particular results”; and

**WHEREAS**, of particular importance to Miami-Dade County, the SPEED Act would explicitly identify “counties, boroughs, parishes, and other political subdivisions of a State” as cooperating local agencies that may contribute to the NEPA process by submitting comments; and

**WHEREAS**, to help prevent NEPA from delaying or debilitating projects of public importance in Miami-Dade County, and to help ensure that the County has a voice in the NEPA review of local projects, this Board wishes to urge Congress to enact the SPEED Act,

**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. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (the “SPEED Act”), or similar legislation that would streamline NEPA review and ensure that counties may contribute to NEPA reviews.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Representatives Bruce Westerman and Jared F. Golden and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2026 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. 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:

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman     |                        |
| Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman |                        |
| Marleine Bastien                | Juan Carlos Bermudez   |
| Sen. René García                | Oliver G. Gilbert, III |
| Roberto J. Gonzalez             | Keon Hardemon          |
| Danielle Cohen Higgins          | Vicki L. Lopez         |
| Natalie Milian Orbis            | Raquel A. Regalado     |
| Micky Steinberg                 |                        |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl