



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS

As of November 25, 2014

R-942-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFETY ACT, S. 2692, H.R. 5354, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, AIMED AT LESSENING SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND THAT WOULD REQUIRE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO DESIGNATE CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS, PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING TO ENSURE THAT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STAFF PROPERLY RESPOND TO THESE KINDS OF CRIMES, AND PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON CAMPUSES SO THAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

R-939-14: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, TO PROHIBIT CONTRACTING WITH ENTITIES DOING BUSINESS WITH OR FUNDED BY STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM

R-828-14: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 5406, H.R. 5408, H.R. 5450, S. 2779 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO REVOKE THE CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS WHO FIGHT FOR ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND IN THE LEVANT ("ISIL"); SUPPORTING S. RES. 538, H. RES. 720 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF JAMES FOLEY AND STEVEN SOTLOFF, TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE EXECUTED BY ISIL, AND CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF ISIL

R-826-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PASS "EQUAL PAY" LAWS DESIGNED TO EQUALIZE PAY DISPARITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

R-825-14: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE DYNAMIC REPAYMENT ACT OF 2014, S. 2612, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION

THAT WOULD REFORM THE CURRENT STUDENT LOAN SYSTEM TO IMPROVE INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT OPTIONS FOR FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

R-788-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE INCREASED FUNDING FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

R-785-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND FEMA TO CLARIFY FEMA'S PROCEDURES FOR DEOBLIGATION OF PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS

R-784-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT TO IMPOSE HEIGHTENED STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL BREEDERS OF CATS AND DOGS AND TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

R-624-14: RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO OPEN ADDITIONAL AIRWAVES FOR WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

R-565-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, S. 2013, H.R. 4031 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION

R-564-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE "BELLA BILL" TO ADVANCE PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

R-545-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE MEDICARE FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2013, H.R. 418, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REDUCE MEDICARE WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

R-470-14: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

R-772-13: RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS, THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHER APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF NAVAL AIR STATION RICHMOND BUILDING NO. 25 AS THE MIAMI MILITARY MUSEUM



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

AVIATION

Legislative & Administration Requests

- **U.S. CBP and CBP-Ag Staffing at MIA - *ADVOCATE*** for adequate CBP and CBP-Ag staffing at MIA. CBP passenger and cargo perishables inspections for international arrivals are a critical component of operations at MIA. As the federal government continues to increase security measures and inspections of inbound international passengers and cargo, maintaining sufficient CBP and CBP-Ag staffing at MIA is critical for operational efficiency.
- **Increase of Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) - *ADVOCATE***. Airports are increasingly funding more infrastructures, including those traditionally funded by airlines and the federal government, such as baggage systems, gates, expansion of security checkpoints and international arrival facilities. Much of this funding comes from local airport user fees known as Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs). MIA needs to continue to grow in order to meet the needs of the expected 25% growth in service that the Federal Aviation Administration predicts our industry will face over the next eight to ten years when it is estimated that 1 billion passengers will use the U.S. aviation system. Although the ceiling on the PFC has remained at \$4.50 for the past fourteen years, it has not been indexed to inflation. If the PFC had been indexed to the construction cost of inflation it would be worth over \$8.00 today. Given federal budget constraints and the demonstrable infrastructure needs that exist at airports, we support authorizing an increase in the Passenger Facilities Charge up to \$10.00 for large airports that agree to forgo Airport Improvement Grant funding, making those funds more available to small airports and indexing the Passenger Facilities Charge to inflation rates in the future.
- **MONITOR and OPPOSE efforts by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to shift responsibility and costs for exit line staffing from the agency to airport operators - a responsibility that airports have never held.** - The proposed staffing change raises serious operational issues and will cost Miami International Airport approximately \$3,500,000 per year. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act (P.L. 107-71) gave TSA authority to regulate virtually all areas of aviation security, including all aspects of passenger and baggage screening.

Funding Requests

- **MIA Airport Operations Center (AOC) - *ADVOCATE*** for funding for the AOC that integrates all existing Operations Control Center, security and command and control functions to greatly improve efficiencies in these areas, particularly Threat Detection and Crisis Incident Management. The estimated project cost is \$1.2 million for design and \$9 million for construction.
- **Miami International Airport K-9 Police Housing and Training Substation - *ADVOCATE*** to obtain funding for a K-9 facility as the use of police K-9 teams has increased security screening efficiency and accuracy in the screening of cargo and passenger baggage, greatly assisting the federal agencies operating at MIA.
- **MIA Biometric Access Control System Upgrades - *ADVOCATE*** for funding to require a common infrastructure utilizing biometrics for issuing secure identity credentials and access control at U.S. airports.

Other Requests & Issues

- **Continue to MONITOR Contract Tower Program for Budget Cuts Resulting from Sequestration** - On May 10, 2013, USDOT determined that the recently enacted Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 allowed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to transfer sufficient funds to prevent 47,000 FAA employee furloughs and keep the 149 contract towers originally slated for closure in June open for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Opa-Locka Executive Airport (OPF), Miami-Dade County's only contract tower facility was granted an earlier exception from closure by the FAA.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Inspector Staffing at MIA and legislation that would restrict the importation of commodities that require FDA inspection, including medicine, cosmetics, dog food and eyeglasses, to ports of entry with an FDA testing facility - *OPPOSE***. FDA performs routine cargo inspections of pharmaceuticals and certain commodities. Staffing levels must be monitored in order to maintain timely inspections for operators using MIA's cargo facilities. Additionally, MIA opposes any efforts to introduce legislation that would restrict the importation of commodities that require FDA inspection, including medicine, cosmetics, dog food and eyeglasses to ports of entry with an FDA testing facility. Since there is no facility in Miami, restricting the importation to only those Ports of Entry with an FDA testing facility would jeopardize the operations of tenants importing these types of products at MIA. Miami Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) urges the County to ***ADVOCATE*** for a testing facility in Miami on a permanent basis or through the use of one of the agency's mobile testing lounges, which could be sent to Miami.
- **Additional Funding for Homeland Security, Environmental Remediation, Technology Initiatives - *SUPPORT*** MDAD's efforts to seek additional funding opportunities through grants and/or pilot programs for perimeter security and other

homeland security efforts, environmental remediation and technology upgrades impacting airport infrastructure.

- **Programs and Procedures that Facilitate International Travel to the United States - *MONITOR* and *SUPPORT*:**

Trusted Traveler Programs: MDAD strongly supports the continued development and promotion of trusted traveler programs like Global Entry and supports negotiating reciprocity agreements with foreign countries. Such reciprocity agreements would improve the experience for foreign visitors entering the United States, free up additional CBP officers and reduce CBP clearance wait times for arriving US and foreign passengers at our gateway airports. MDAD also supports CBP's Seamless Travel Initiative aimed at enhancing the international arrival process by minimizing redundancies while allowing CBP officers to concentrate on critical mission needs, and maximizing the use of pre-travel information in order to create a seamless experience for the traveler and other stakeholders. MDAD will continue to monitor federal policies that impact the flow of people and commerce through County airports.

Improve Visa Procedures: US visa procedures can be barriers which decrease travel to the United States and thus reduce associated economic benefits. Since MIA is a major point of entry for foreign nationals, these policies have a profound impact on MIA's operations. As the federal government continues to implement new homeland security measures, the County and MDAD must work to ensure that policymakers understand how these measures impact the region's top economic engine. MDAD supports increasing the number of consular staff, opening additional consulates or targeted visa centers, lengthening the validity of visas, piloting video conferencing for interviews and developing procedures to allow private firms to handle administrative task.

COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **In-Home Service Support - *SUPPORT*** the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act as it is important to continue improving the livelihood of the county's elderly community. Sequestration resulted in the loss of Federal funds to provide services to individuals 60 years of age and older. This fund would allow 100-125 elders to remain at home and in the community while participating in improving their own independence.
- **Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) - *SUPPORT*** the reauthorization of the CSBG Act. 90% of CSBG funding is placed under local direction coordinated by community stakeholders. CSBG reduces program duplication by coordinating resources efficiently across non-profits, faith-based groups and the private sector. The activities administered by local Community Action Agencies in the State of Florida and moreover, throughout the country are supporting low-income people in their quest to become self-sufficient.

GRANTS COORDINATION

- **Ryan White Program - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for an increase in funding for The HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act. The act is the nation's largest HIV-specific federal grant program and a critical source of health care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program has been in existence since 1990 and has been re-authorized six times.

HOMELESS TRUST

- **National Housing Trust Fund - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** funding the trust fund using profits from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Currently these profits go directly to the U.S. Treasury. Should they be used to fund the National Housing Trust Fund, it could mean up to \$3.5 billion for affordable housing and homelessness prevention.
- **End Chronic Homelessness - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** for federal funds to end chronic homelessness similar to the funds allocated toward the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, which have been made available to bring an end to veteran homelessness. These funds are essential to the stated federal goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2016.
- **McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants – *ADVOCATE*** for the final appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), include, at a minimum, level funding for HUD's McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Advancement of the use of alternate fuels - *SUPPORT*** legislation that offers funding and incentives such as grants, no interest loans, land donation and private partner tax credits to further local governments acquisition of compressed natural gas (CNG) powered medium to heavy fleet vehicles and equipment, the associated infrastructure for fueling and vehicle/equipment maintenance, and liquefied natural gas seaport specific infrastructure to promote energy independence and environmental improvement.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES

- **Camp Matecumbe General Plan Improvements - *SUPPORT*** funding to improve the camping facilities and preserved a piece of local history. Camp Matecumbe is a place that celebrates the Pedro Pan Program's rich cultural and historical significant, a place that restores the Pine Rockland environment and serves the local and regional communities.

- **Conservation and Stewardship of the Deering Estate at Cutler - *ADVOCATE*** for funding for the completion of a Phase II Archaeological Survey to further identify nationally significant finds located on the site, continued restoration of the historic buildings used as a public house museum; acquisition of additional in-holdings; and further protection of natural resources and sensitive environments.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)/PROS Agenda

- **Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2011 - *SUPPORT*** current S. 1265 to provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding. The bill amends the LWCF Act of 1965 to stop the diversion of LWCF revenues for unrelated purposes by ensuring that full authorized funding for LWCF-- \$900 million per year-is dedicated expressly for land conservation and is no longer subject to reductions in the annual appropriations process.
- **Community Park Revitalization Act - *SUPPORT*** the Authorization and the passage of the Community Park Revitalization Act to make urban areas healthier, more livable, and economically competitive through the revitalization and development of parks, green space, and recreation opportunities.
- **Personal Health Investment Today Act (PHIT), H.R. 956, or related legislation - *SUPPORT*** legislation that would allow taxpayers to place up to \$2,000 a year in existing Pre-Tax medical accounts for reimbursement of physical activity expenses. Lower costs will promote active lifestyles and improve the health of Americans. The PHIT Act would help to reverse the trend of increasing physical inactivity and obesity by eliminating a federal policy barrier and providing an important tax incentive to promote exercise.
- **Healthy Kids Outdoors Act of 2014, S. 2367, H.R. 4706, or related legislation - *SUPPORT*** legislation that improves our children's health, supports economic growth, and strengthens the future of conservation by providing incentives to states and local entities to reconnect youth and families with nature and foster environmental stewards.
- **No Child Left Inside Act, H.R. 2702, S. 1306, or related legislation - *SUPPORT*** legislation that improves our children's health, supports economic growth, and strengthens the future of conservation by providing incentives to states and local entities to reconnect youth and families with nature and foster environmental stewards.
- **Exotic Wildlife Control - *ADVOCATE*** for funding to manage and control invasive exotic animals through the increase in enforcement assistance to coordinate removal, control, and monitoring of wildlife. Miami-Dade County manages more than 20,000 acres of native ecosystems spread across more than 80 different properties.

- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, HR 3992, or related legislation - *SUPPORT*** the passage of legislation that would establish a separate disaster account in case of devastating wildfire, which would allow the Forest Service to preserve its budget allotted for other forest protection and maintenance undertakings by preventing borrowing from other Forest Service and Department of the Interior programs. Funding will enhance the ability to manage costly wildfires preventing injuries and loss of property.
- **Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Program - *SUPPORT*** continued funding of that supports implementation of evidenced- and practice-based strategies that address previously-identified community gaps and needs within a defined jurisdiction to reduce the prevalence of chronic disease and related risk factors. Nearly one quarter of all adult residents in Miami-Dade County are overweight or obese and one-third engage in no leisure-time physical activity. Insufficient park facilities contribute to low levels of physical activity and obesity in urban communities.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) - *SUPPORT*** funding for programs that assist economically distressed urban localities in the rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities in FY 2015 appropriations. CDBG is one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds local community development activities. CDBG funds are used in Miami-Dade County for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or installation of park improvements and facilities.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - *SUPPORT*** the maintaining or increase of TAP. Urge Congress not eliminate Transportation Alternatives. Miami-Dade County accesses TAP funds to help plan, design and construct a wide variety of active transportation corridors, bike paths and trails and streetscape improvements that generate not only healthy transportation options but also generate economic activity and growth.
- **Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 - *SUPPORT*** legislation that would fund the Highway Trust Fund beyond the May 31, 2015 deadline set for its expiration.
- **Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2014, S.1562, H.R.4122, or related legislation - *SUPPORT*** legislation reauthorizing the Older Americans Act of 1965 which addresses the health, welfare and economic needs of older individuals by promoting senior center modernizations and evidence-based chronic disease management and falls prevention.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **Justice Assistance Grants funding - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“Byrne JAG”) program by the U.S.

Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. There are proposed cuts to this vital federal law enforcement program that would be detrimental to the county.

- **Forensic Science Grant Programs at U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of vital federal initiatives facing serious reductions in the proposed Congressional budget. The grant programs, in priority order, include:
 - Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program (Formula and Competitive grants);
 - DNA Backlog Reduction Program;
 - Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program;
 - NIJ Research Grants.
- **Body Worn Videos (BWVs) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** for federal funding for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive study to evaluate the effectiveness of using such a technology on policing, law enforcement and the criminal justice system as a whole.

PORTMIAMI

- **Harbor Maintenance Tax - *SUPPORT*** legislation that would repeal the Harbor Maintenance Tax and authorize general revenues to pay for the federal cost of operating, maintaining, and constructing the nation's harbors
- **Additional CBP and USDA Resources** - Without the addition of resources, container shipments may be delayed; causing the region to lose millions in revenue and cruise debarkations similarly may be delayed, causing issues for incoming passengers. PortMiami requests additional resources for CBP and USDA in order to accommodate the increased cargo and cruise passengers.
- **Transshipment Inspection Protocol - *ADVOCATE*** for regulatory changes relating to developing a "transshipment inspection protocol" for the Port of Miami which will allow our port to safely and efficiently process new transshipment cargo.
- **Cold Treatment - *ADVOCATE*** for PortMiami to be added as a port of entry specifically authorized by USDA to import fruits requiring cold treatment.
- **Freight and Intermodal Transportation - *SUPPORT*** US DOT in the development of a comprehensive national freight policy to ensure that the flow of goods and commerce through our international portals of commerce and via our interstate rail and highway effectively flows both intra and interstate.
- **Federal Funding of the Deep Dredge** - The Seaport Department recommends the federal government allocate a nominal amount, between \$50,000 to \$75,000, for the

-50ft Deep Dredge Project in the President's FY2015 Budget for reimbursement of the federal share of the project advanced by the State of Florida. The Deep Dredge has been designated a project of Regional and National Significance and is one of the most important infrastructure projects on the drawing board in the U.S. The Deep Dredge will create over 30,000 new, high paying jobs and double cargo throughput.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Public Housing & Section 8 Housing - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding from HUD for public housing and Section 8 programs. Funding for these programs will ensure the preservation of existing housing stock and improvement of federally-funded programs that provide crucial affordable housing and rental subsidies to low-income families.
- **HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program - *SUPPORT*** continued funding for the HUD HOME program.
 - The HOME program is authorized under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. It is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments, and it is designed to create affordable housing for low-income households. This program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), includes but is not limited to providing rental housing, rental housing assistance, home purchase or rehabilitation financing assistance to eligible homeowners and new homebuyers.
 - HUD has classified Miami-Dade County as a "high-cost area." By implication, the high housing cost also results in high rental costs. It is important that the County support housing programs which benefit the low- to moderate-income residents in the community who typically will require rental housing. The HOME program is one of the many funding sources that the County relies upon to address housing needs of its low-to moderate-income residents. Therefore, any further reduction or elimination of HOME program funding will have a devastating impact on the County's ability to continue to house its most needy residents.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - *SUPPORT*** for increased federal funding for the HUD CDBG program.
 - The CDBG entitlement program provides grants on a formula basis to general units of local governments and states to address a variety of community development needs in very-low to-moderate income areas.
 - The CDBG program's primary objective is to assist in the development of viable urban communities by supporting projects that:
 - benefit very-low to moderate-income persons

- are integrated in a long range community strategy
- leverage further private and public partnerships
- enhance deteriorated residential and business districts

The projects are classified in four categories: Public Facilities and Capital Improvement; Economic Development; Public Services; and Affordable Housing. CDBG program funds can be used to build community facilities, roads, and parks; to repair or rehabilitate housing, to provide new or increased public services to local residents or to fund initiatives that generate or retain new jobs.

Over the last three years Miami-Dade County has adopted a strategic focus on development within the Neighborhood Revitalization Areas in an effort to have the greatest impact among the most needy communities and households. The reduction of funding for the CDBG program has a significant impact on the County's ability to continue to implement programs designed to address the needs of its very-low to moderate-income communities which this program serve. The CDBG program funding has declined each year over the last ten years and given the current economic conditions this financial support is critically needed to continue serving and addressing the needs of very-low and moderate-income residents.

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - *SUPPORT*** the preservation or increase of ESG funding for Miami-Dade County and ***SUPPORT*** the \$3.3 billion national funding recommendations for the CDBG program as advocated by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The ESG Program supports homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and related services. ESG is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Municipal Waste Combustor (MWC) MACT Standards - *OPPOSE*** any Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued MWC MACT rule that imposes standards using the "pollutant-by-pollutant" methodology. The EPA should set standards by selecting facilities that have the best overall pollutant levels, in addition to considering waste content and emissions variability. Setting standards by the best individual pollutant levels would result in unrealistic and unachievable emission standards, some of which may not be met by the PWWM's Waste-to-Energy facility. Imposing a MWC MACT standard measurement using a "pollutant-by-pollutant" approach could result in increased operational and capital costs as well as costly fines and the potential closing of the facility.
- **Market Incentives for Electricity Produced from Renewable Resources - *SUPPORT*** market incentives to encourage development and operation of alternative, renewable energy production. Support legislation designating biomass as a qualified energy resource, eligible for any and all market incentives.

- **Flow Control/Interstate Waste Transport - *OPPOSE*** any efforts seeking to amend legislation in response to the April, 2007 Supreme Court decision "United Haulers Assn. v. Oreida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (No. 05-1345)" which held that flow control to publicly owned facilities is a legislative use of flow control authority. Flow control improves the DSWM's financial position and creates a more stable environment.
- **Waste-to-Energy Ash Study - *SUPPORT*** a funding request for a study on development of new construction opportunities for the beneficial use of Waste-to-Energy Ash through the Ash Demonstrator Project. A portion of the funding request will be allocated for a "bench" test; and the remainder will be utilized for a pilot test for what has been determined to be the most beneficial use of the ash.

REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Agriculture

- **Mitigation and eradication of the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle and prevention and treatment of Laurel Wilt Disease. - *ADVOCATE*** for funding to provide continued funding for research into effective methods of mitigating and eradicating the red bay ambrosia beetle, preventing the spread of laurel wilt disease into avocados, and treating those avocados crops already affected.
- **Agriculture Disaster Relief - *ADVOCATE*** for funding, programs legislation and assistance to increase viability of our local agricultural industry and mitigate any effects of invasive pests, diseases, freezes, flooding, windstorm and other potential damages to our said industry.

Environmental Protection

- **Sea Level Rise Mitigation - *SUPPORT*** efforts to provide federal funding for beach sea level rise mitigation and erosion on an as-needed basis.
- **16 County Ecosystem Summit Legislative Priorities - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for the federal legislative priorities associated with the health and welfare of the lakes, estuaries, and riverine systems consisting of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth Lagoon, and all of the bodies of water connected thereto including the Everglades as determined by the 16 member counties.

Sustainability

- **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) Systems - *SUPPORT*** the expansion of existing net metering policies to allow for off-site or "virtual" net metering. Support legislation and/or constitutional amendments aiming to exempt solar photovoltaic systems from commercial property assessments and the tangible personal property tax, as well as

legislation allowing Solar PV Power Purchase Agreements, and promote green economy/green jobs in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green infrastructure.

- **Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact - *SUPPORT*** the compact's federal legislative program as it relates to issues concerning infrastructure investments, national coordination on adaptation and resilience, adaptation action areas, program funding and implementation restrictions, climate science, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), oil exploration and drilling, Everglades restoration as well as ***SUPPORTING*** standing positions on federal policy and appropriations funding issues.

TRANSIT

- **GROW America Act - *SUPPORT*** legislation that creates an extended transportation bill which can replace the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century Act (MAP-21).
- **State of Good Repair (SGR) grants - *SUPPORT*** funding for Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) for several critical, but not fully-funded improvements projects, which could qualify for State of Good Repair (SGR) grants. MDT is requesting continuing support for SGR grants that can fund projects for improvement or modernization of Metrorail and Metromover guideways, replacement of escalators and overhaul of elevators at Metromover stations and CNG buses and retrofitting of garages.
- **Beach Corridor Transit Connection - *ADVOCATE*** for Federal funding through the Department of Transportation that would allow the development of a Beach Corridor Transit Connection (formally known as Bay Link). The Beach Corridor Transit Connection could provide a rapid-transit connection between the cities of Miami and Miami Beach, and also serve as an essential transportation link to important upcoming economic-engine projects.
- **Discretionary Transit Grants -** Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is requesting the ***SUPPORT*** of Department of Transportation grant funds that would allow MDT to establish and operate Bus Rapid Transit corridors along some of Miami-Dade County's busy corridors.

WATER & SEWER

- **Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing - *OPPOSE*** *Altering Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing on Public Drinking Water & Wastewater Systems*, reviews options being discussed at the federal level to cap or eliminate the 100-year old tax exempt status of municipal bonds, a move that would cost the sector billions of dollars in infrastructure projects at a time when federal investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is waning. . For more than a century, tax-exempt municipal bonds have been the most important source of funding for water and wastewater

infrastructure projects in the United States. Congress should retain the current federal tax exemption for municipal bonds.

- **Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Authority (WIFIA) - SUPPORT** Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) pilot program which is part of the recently passed Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which includes this innovative new program that will help the nation's communities finance much-needed water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. WIFIA would offer competitive low-interest loan assistance in the construction of major water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
- **State Revolving Loan (SRF) Program - SUPPORT** any Congressional action to amend the manner in which State Revolving Funds are allocated to the States, to the extent that the legislation would provide greater amounts of funding to the State of Florida. Support legislation to reauthorize and expand the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan (SRF) program. That legislation should do the following: Expand and modernize the drinking water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program and increase the authorization of appropriations for the fund.
- **Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act, H.R. 765 or related legislation - SUPPORT** a competitive funding assistance program to help the nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems plan and implement projects to adapt their infrastructure to these changing hydrological conditions. Eligible projects will include those that conserve water and increase efficiency, rebuild or relocate threatened treatment facilities, accelerate the adoption of advanced water treatment technologies like water reuse and recycling, or incorporate green infrastructure techniques.
- **The Clean Water Affordability Act, H.R. 3862, or related legislation - SUPPORT** would codify EPA's IP approach, extend permit terms for communities with an approved integrated plan, and require the Agency to revise its guidance on financial capability. This would legislation will assist communities to more affordably manage their CWA requirements.
- **The Clean Water Compliance and Ratepayer Affordability Act, H.R. 2707 or related legislation - SUPPORT** would create a new pilot program for 15 communities across the country to develop integrated plans and extend permit terms for pilot communities with an approved integrated plan.
- **The Water Efficiency, Conservation and Adaptation Programs - MONITOR** bills designed to reduce water consumption and provide funding supporting activities. **SUPPORT** legislation to provide tax credits and other incentives to encourage water conservation as a way to reward families and businesses for water conservation efforts. **SUPPORT** legislation that authorizes a grant program to finance a variety of measures to improve drinking water, wastewater, irrigation and other water systems in order to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. A broad range of water recycling, desalination, irrigation, groundwater and wastewater projects are

eligible for assistance. **SUPPORT** legislation that funds EPA's Water Sense program to provide customer incentives for water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes, processes or services.