

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 14, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging United
States President Joseph R. Biden
Jr. and United States Secretary of
Agriculture Tom Vilsack to take
appropriate action to lower
interest rates on loans for the
purchase of land for agricultural
use

Resolution No. R-589-22

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 14, 2022

FROM: 
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County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)
6-14-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-589-22

RESOLUTION URGING UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. AND UNITED STATES SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE TOM VILSACK TO TAKE APPROPRIATE
ACTION TO LOWER INTEREST RATES ON LOANS FOR THE
PURCHASE OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL USE

WHEREAS, agriculture is a significant component of Miami-Dade County’s economy, and the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan provides that “Miami-Dade County shall take steps to reserve the amount of land necessary to maintain an economically viable agricultural industry”; and

WHEREAS, one way to perpetuate the agricultural industry is through the purchase of additional land to be put toward agricultural use, whether by existing farmers or persons who wish to become farmers; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry does not exist in a vacuum, and it both influences and is influenced by other aspects of the economy; and

WHEREAS, consequently, rising property values and rising loan interest rates may make it more difficult for farmers and would-be farmers to purchase land for agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), through its Farm Service Agency, administers Farm Loan Programs that assist farmers in financing farm acquisition and operations; and

WHEREAS, such loans include Farm Ownership Loans, which, according to the USDA, “offer up to 100 percent financing and are a valuable resource to help farmers and ranchers purchase or enlarge family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations”; and

WHEREAS, Farm Ownership Loans include both direct loans from the federal government and loans from commercial lenders that are federally guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, farmers can also seek loans for farm land acquisition directly from commercial lenders, but given our nation's fundamental need for a healthy agricultural economy, the federal government should continue to support the agricultural industry through sound and prudent economic policy; and

WHEREAS, the affordability of land acquisition for agricultural use depends in significant part on loan interest rates; and

WHEREAS, to promote an economically viable agricultural industry in Miami-Dade County, this Board wishes to urge United States President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to take appropriate action to lower interest rates on loans for the purchase of land for agricultural use,

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

Section 1. Urges United States President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to take appropriate action to lower interest rates on loans for the purchase of land for agricultural use.

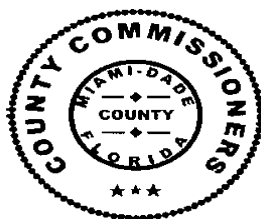
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to United States President Joseph R. Biden Jr., United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2022 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	aye		
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	absent		
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	absent	Jean Monestime	absent
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 14th day of June, 2022. 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: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl