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1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
 3 Congress to support or initiate action that would allow
 4 local governments to fully implement programs designed to
 5 encourage voluntary energy conservation and efficiency,
 6 renewable energy, and wind resistance improvements by
 7 homeowners and businesses.

8
 9 WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major expense for home
 10 and business owners, and

11 WHEREAS, hurricanes and other wind storm events pose
 12 significant threats to Florida citizens and property, and

13 WHEREAS, energy conservation and efficiency and reduced
 14 reliance on fossil fuel energy generation enhance the welfare of
 15 the public by reducing energy bills and diversifying energy
 16 production, and

17 WHEREAS, wind storm protection reduces damage to the
 18 improved property and property in the vicinity of the improved
 19 property from hurricanes and other wind events, and

20 WHEREAS, the upfront costs of such improvements prevent
 21 property owners from making otherwise cost-effective energy and
 22 wind resistance improvements, and

23 WHEREAS, state and local governments have embraced programs
 24 that allow local governments to facilitate the financing of
 25 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and in
 26 Florida, wind resistance improvements because of the remarkable
 27 potential to cut energy bills, increase homeowners' cash flow
 28 for mortgage payments and other bills or investments, reduce

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29 mortgage default risk, and potentially reduce property insurance
30 by reducing property damage risk, by encouraging investment in
31 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind
32 resistance property improvements, and

33 WHEREAS, unemployment in Florida is at record levels, in
34 the construction sector in particular, and the State of Florida
35 anticipates that the implementation of such programs would
36 create employment opportunities for thousands of Florida
37 citizens, and

38 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has determined that the
39 reduced reliance on fossil fuels for electrical generation and
40 the increased wind resistance of Florida properties to wind
41 storm events are of benefit to the citizens of the State of
42 Florida, and

43 WHEREAS, in Chapter 2010-139, Laws of Florida, now codified
44 in s. 163.08, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida authorized
45 local governments to create programs to promote such deployment
46 of energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and
47 wind resistance measures at residential and commercial
48 properties, and

49 WHEREAS, such financing programs are an innovative local
50 government solution to assist property owners in financing
51 energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, and wind
52 resistance improvements to their homes and businesses on a
53 voluntary basis, and

54 WHEREAS, twenty-two other states have passed laws enabling
55 local governments to develop such programs, and

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56 WHEREAS, despite such programs' potential to decrease the
 57 burden of household expenses for Floridians who participate, the
 58 Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and the Office of the
 59 Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010, issued statements
 60 that immediately stalled implementation of such programs in
 61 Florida and froze the progress of most existing similar programs
 62 nationwide, and

63 WHEREAS, the FHFA actions have resulted in lawsuits around
 64 the nation, and Congressional action would rapidly and
 65 efficiently resolve those disputes, NOW, THEREFORE,

66
 67 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

68
 69 That Congress is urged to quickly restore the potential of
 70 job creation and economic development through voluntary state-
 71 authorized energy efficiency, renewable energy, and wind
 72 resistance programs by supporting the implementation of these
 73 programs by local governments in Florida through Congressional
 74 action that affirms the authority of local governments to
 75 implement these programs in Florida pursuant to Chapter 2010-
 76 139, Laws of Florida and,

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 78 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 79 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 80 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 81 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.