

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Skidmore Serves as Panelist for Ocean Climate Action at Climate Week NYC 2021
Date: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:03:43 AM

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**Representative Skidmore Serves as Panelist for Ocean
Climate Action at Climate Week NYC 2021**

Tallahassee, Fla. – This week, **State Representative Kelly Skidmore (D-Boca Raton)** served as a panelist on a roundtable discussion titled “Integrated Policies for Ocean Climate Action: Building Coastal Resiliency,” at Climate Week NYC 2021. The event, hosted by the National Caucus of State Legislators, OA Alliance, Ocean Conservancy, and Seattle Aquarium, focused on the role of U.S. states as “laboratories of democracy,” with an emphasis on climate, ocean, and coastal policies and priorities. Joining **Representative Skidmore** on the panel were **State Representatives Lydia Blume of Maine** and **David Tarnas of Hawaii** along with moderator and former **Alaska State Representative Beth Kerttula**.

Topics included legislation and key projects from state legislatures, how state initiatives are advancing the integration of climate, ocean and coastal policies at agency and department levels, and identifying local projects, and collaborations. A video of the roundtable can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BeALoYCUOo&t=18s>.

“Florida’s blue economy is one of my top legislative priorities,” said **Representative Skidmore**. “As the most recognizable peninsula in the country, Florida is framed by the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico and is home to the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, as well as a statewide network of rivers, wetlands, estuaries, mangroves, springs, and aquifers. When looking at a hydrological map of the State, it’s reliance on water cannot be overstated.”

Climate Week NYC, taking place September 20-26, is hosted annually by the Climate Group, in conjunction with the United Nations, and in partnership with the COP26 and the City of New York.

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