

## **RESOLUTION 2021-**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA AS PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 62 OR SIMILAR PROPOSED LEGISLATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's six-county geographical area is comprised of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties and 23 municipalities contained therein, with over 3.8 million residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing, resiliency, economic development and analysis, emergency preparedness, energy, natural resources, urban planning, geographic information systems and regional transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council developed the Suncoast Parkway Extension Transportation Corridor Land Use Study for Citrus County that won a national award; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council prepared the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS); and

**WHEREAS**, for more than five decades Regional Planning Councils have served the public as Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions to multijurisdictional issues identified by their member local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the 67 counties in the state are divided into 10 Regional Planning Councils which perform functions to the extent and as directed by their member counties, cities, and gubernatorial appointees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Planning Councils compete for and bring to Florida millions of dollars in federal funds for Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, and Resiliency initiatives that would otherwise go to other states; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Planning Councils receive no regular general appropriation for operation from the State and, instead, are supported by Federal grant funds, local dues, local contracts, and State contracts for specific programs implemented on behalf of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Councils no longer have any regulatory authority and are no longer involved in Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs); and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Councils serve a critical role in hazardous material response coordination and training through the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) operated by each Council; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed Senate Bill 62 will remove authorization and all references to Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes, depriving the people of the State of the important work the councils perform and the federal funds they bring into Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Councils regularly assist state agencies in implementing their statutory duties and legislative directives, along with coordinating these duties and directives with local input, at no charge to the State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners, of Citrus County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, in regular session this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021, as follows:

1. The Legislature is urged not to pass Senate Bill 62 unless it is modified to no longer remove Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCOTT CARNAHAN CHAIRMAN

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RONALD E. KITCHEN JR., 1<sup>ST</sup> VICECHAIR

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RUTHIE DAVIS SCHLABACH, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICECHAIR

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JEFF KINNARD D.C., COMMISSIONER

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HOLLY L. DAVIS, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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Angela Vick, Clerk of the Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR CITRUS COUNTY ONLY

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Denise A. Dymond Lyn, County Attorney