

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED CLEAN POWER PLAN RULE AND CARBON POLLUTION LIMITS FOR EXISTING POWER PLANTS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CLEAN POWER PLAN RULE ON BEHALF OF BROWARD COUNTY; URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ENGAGE CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ("U.S. EPA") AND STAKEHOLDERS IN AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA'S CLEAN AIR ACT STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN; PROVIDING FOR COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE BROWARD CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE U.S. EPA, THE BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, southeast Florida is one of the areas of the United States most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the recently-released third National Climate Assessment thoroughly explains that, while some impacts of climate change are inevitable, sharp reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will reduce the severity of the impacts and limit the rate of change; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") has a history of leadership on climate change initiatives, including the adoption of a Countywide Climate Change Action Plan, participation as a founding member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact ("Compact"), and formal integration of climate change and sea level rise into County policy and planning; and

1 WHEREAS, Broward County has long acknowledged the linkage between global  
2 climate change, the sustainability of our environment, and our quality of life, and the  
3 importance of emissions reductions, energy conservation, and renewable energy goals  
4 as a part of national, state, and local strategies; and

5 WHEREAS, these commitments were first formalized with the County's adoption  
6 of Resolution No. 2007-391, providing support for the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection  
7 Agreement and committing to a seven percent (7%) reduction in greenhouse gas  
8 emissions below 1990 levels by 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, subsequent commitments have included establishment of a regional  
10 emissions reduction goal of eighty-two percent (82%) below year 2010 levels by year  
11 2050 in the Climate Element of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan, support for  
12 renewable energy development in the County's Climate Change Action Plan and the  
13 Compact's Regional Climate Action Plan, and the goals established earlier this year by  
14 the Board to reduce energy use in County facilities by two and one-half percent (2.5%)  
15 per year, for a total of twenty percent (20%), by 2020, and to obtain twenty percent  
16 (20%) of the energy for County operations from renewable sources; and

17 WHEREAS, the Board has advocated for the adoption of a twenty percent (20%)  
18 renewable energy portfolio standard by the Florida Legislature and the establishment of  
19 meaningful energy conservation goals for electric utilities by the Florida Public Service  
20 Commission, neither of which has been realized; and

21 WHEREAS, Section 111 of the Clean Air Act empowers the U.S. EPA to regulate  
22 carbon pollution; and

23

24

1 WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA and the United States Department of Transportation  
2 finalized fuel economy standards for heavy-duty vehicles in 2011, and automobiles and  
3 light-duty trucks in 2012, to reduce future carbon pollution from vehicles; and

4 WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA proposed limits on carbon pollution from new power  
5 plants in April 2012, issued a revised proposal in September 2013, and is expected to  
6 finalize the standard by January 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 1, 2014, President Barack Obama unveiled the  
8 U.S. EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan Rule to reduce carbon pollution from existing  
9 power plants; and

10 WHEREAS, the proposed carbon pollution rules have been designed to provide  
11 states with flexibility in developing their own plans to meet the standards through the  
12 Clean Air Act's state implementation plans; and

13 WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Defense Council has estimated that carbon  
14 pollution rules like those proposed by the U.S. EPA would produce \$28 billion to \$60  
15 billion in health and environmental benefits, far more than the economic cost of the  
16 rules, NOW, THEREFORE,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
19 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

20  
21 Section 1. The Board affirms its general support for the U.S. EPA's proposed  
22 Clean Power Plan Rule and regulation of carbon pollution from existing power plants.

23 Section 2. The Board directs the County Administrator to submit comments on  
24 the proposed rule to the U.S. EPA on behalf of Broward County.

Section 3. The Board urges the State of Florida to engage constructively with the U.S. EPA and a wide variety of stakeholders in amending Florida's Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan to achieve the reductions in carbon pollution required by the federal rule.

Section 4. Copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to the Broward Congressional Delegation, the Administrator of the U.S. EPA, the Broward Legislative Delegation, the Governor of the State of Florida, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this                      day of                      , 2014.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

By /s/ Michael C. Owens 06/18/14  
Michael C. Owens (Date)  
Senior Assistant County Attorney