

## **State Agriculture and Rural Leaders**

### **Resolution 2010-2**

#### **A Resolution on EPA'S *Florida Only* Water Quality Regulations**

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced new water regulations that would apply to Florida and only Florida; and

WHEREAS, the new water regulations represent a de facto water tax from Washington that will impose major economic hardship on Florida's battered economy with questionable benefits to our environment and attempting to comply with these federal regulations - which in some cases will prove technically impossible - will cost tens of billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, these regulations have been driven by litigants and bureaucrats rather than openly through the people's elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, Floridians can expect significantly higher water bills under the proposed regulations; and

WHEREAS, Florida has been recognized as a national leader in water quality protection and restoration thanks to the state's existing Total Maximum Daily Loads program, a program designed to protect the state's waters; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 10 years, Florida's TMDL program has spent tens of millions of dollars to scientifically evaluate the quality of Florida's surface waters and promote the mechanisms necessary to clean up pollution; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and the state's Water Management Districts, Florida's industries have been proud to cooperate with this effort; and

WHEREAS, Florida's watershed based process of establishing numeric nutrient criteria is a superior scientific approach to ensuring water quality; and

WHEREAS, EPA's proposed standards pose a significant problem and an unattainable goal for Florida farmers who provide our citizens with food – which could ultimately lead to significantly higher grocery prices.

WHEREAS, it is possible that if successful, these regulations will spread to other states; and

WHEREAS, these regulations the ruling is the first time the EPA has intervened to set a state's water-quality standards, but if successful it will not be the last.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Agricultural and Rural Leaders oppose the proposed regulations EPA seeks to impose on Florida with no regard for the technical feasibility, the massive costs to the public, or the devastating effects they will create for Florida's struggling economy.