SWFRPC RESOLUTION #2010-02

RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING EMERGING SUBSTANCES OF CONCERN

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (Council) supports the objectives of the Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009 (HR 4190) addressing the problem of Emerging Substances of Concern; and

WHEREAS, As of August 2007, more than 32 million substances, including hydrocarbons and Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs), were registered with the American Chemical Society's Chemical Abstract Service, with over 15 million of them being commercially available; and

WHEREAS, regulatory controls only exist for approximately 250,000 (1.6%) of these substances; and

WHEREAS, 98% of the commercially available compounds are not inventoried and are essentially unregulated substance, some having a high degree of uncertainty associated with their environmental fate, transport, and toxicological effects of these substances due to a lack of analytical methods that allow the confident determination of their presence, a lack of toxicological studies that give direct information on how dangerous a substance is to various plant and animal groups, and the fact that environmental risks cannot be meaningfully assessed without such information, and as a result, an effective agency action cannot be developed; and

WHEREAS, in less than two (2) years (August 2005 to August 2007), more than five (5) million new chemicals were added to the registry, and five (5) million additional chemicals became commercially available; and

WHEREAS, at the current rate of chemical development, the fraction of unregulated to regulated chemicals will continue to increase exponentially. Once available in the market place, many of these substances are eventually released into the environment, where they pose an unknown level of risk to humans, animals, and plants;

WHEREAS, the Federal government is proposing legislation to address these issues. The legislation is known as the Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009 (HR 4190). The legislation would authorize a new research program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to identify Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) and establish an independent scientific panel to guide research and prioritize chemicals for testing. The panel determination of even minimal concern about a compound would compel Federal regulatory agencies to propose control steps within six (6) months; and

WHEREAS, the legislation, if passed, will improve existing governmental efforts so that data can be obtained in a timely, accurate, and practical manner that is needed to protect public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL:

While Council recognizes the significant challenges for environmental protection agencies to monitor and provide chemical-specific regulation for more than fourteen (14) million substances because it is impractical due to the sheer number of compounds and potential cost of the monitoring and regulatory actions, Council expresses support for the Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009 (HR 4190) to expand environmental research, monitoring and regulation of Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council this 18th day of March, 2010.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mick Denham, Chair

ATTEST:

Kenneth Heatherington, Executive Director