

**RESOLUTION 2013 - 106**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING AND MAINTAINING FUTURE STATE FUNDING FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Regional Council is an association of local governments and gubernatorial representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Regional Council brings together governments to coordinate planning for the region's future and provides an opportunity for sharing solutions among the 34 jurisdictions in the Northeast Florida Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Regional Council encompasses the counties of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns, which are required by law to exercise regional cooperation through membership on the Council; and includes membership of a municipality in each county; and

**WHEREAS**, the regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, are federally designated economic development districts and promote economic development in conjunction with local economic development organizations, provide access to federal economic development funding, and provide technical assistance to local governments, private businesses and neighborhood-based organizations with respect to the creation and expansion of infrastructure and jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, have prepared five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars as an organizing framework to help implement the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development and meet the Governor's job creation goals; and

**WHEREAS**, regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, use econometric modeling to provide objective economic impact analyses on policy and investment decisions in support of local economic development organizations, helping them create jobs and invest in local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, prepare grant applications for federal and state economic development and job creation projects at the request of local economic development organizations and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, convene community leaders to develop regional visions that link business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation into long-term investment plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the state appropriation for regional planning councils has been vetoed for the past two years, negatively affecting the ability of the Northeast Florida Regional Council to address problems of greater-than-local concern, provide technical assistance to the local governments and economic development organizations in its region, and begin implementation of the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County hereby supports restoring state funding for Florida's 11 regional planning councils, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, in recognition of their valuable economic development role within their respective regions and to the State of Florida.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County urges Governor Rick Scott to recognize the contribution of Florida's 11 regional planning councils to his job creation goals and partnership with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in the development and implementation of the State Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Section 3. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County urges Governor Rick Scott to support and restore funding for Florida's 11 regional planning councils.

Section 4. The Clerk shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the members of the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*John H. Morris*  
John H. Morris, Chairman

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ram Halterman*

Deputy Clerk

**RENDITION DATE** 5/9/13

