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RESOLUTION NO. 2022- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 1078 AND HOUSE BILL 783, PROPOSED LEGISLATION ABOLISHING ALL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts were established in 1937 under Chapter 582, Florida Statutes, to oversee Florida’s natural resource management programs; and

WHEREAS, soil and water conservations districts provide resources, planning, assessment, assist citizens in applying conservation and preservation technology, and educate citizens in these technologies; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 582, Florida Statutes, soil and water conservation districts are non-taxing and non-regulatory districts served by uncompensated, non-partisan elected officials on each Board; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District (“IRSWCD”) was established in 1945 by a local referendum pursuant to Chapter 582, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the IRSWCD was organized for the purpose of developing a program of management and conservation of the soil, water and related natural resources of Indian River County, and to promote and encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation practices on privately owned land; and

WHEREAS, the members of the IRSWCD board are primarily local farmers and others in the community who have long-standing relationships to the communities in which they volunteer to serve; and

WHEREAS, SB 1078 and HB 783 would amend Chapter 582 to abolish all soil and water conservation districts throughout the state of Florida, including the Indian River County Soil and Water Conservation District which serves the area including the City of Vero Beach; and

WHEREAS, if passed, SB 1078 and HB 783 would eliminate services that many residents rely upon for conservation efforts at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that there is a need, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, for a soil and water conservation district to function in Indian River County and including the area of the City of Vero Beach, and that it is in the best interest of the City that these soil and water conservation districts should not be abolished,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 – Adoption of “Whereas” clauses.

The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby adopted and incorporated herein as forming the legislative findings, purpose, and intent of this Resolution.

Section 2 – Opposition to Adoption of SB 1078 and HB 783.

The City Council of the City of Vero Beach opposes the adoption and passage of SB 1078 (by Senator Travis Hutson) and HB 783 (by Representative Keith Truenow) in the 2022 session of the Florida Legislature. The City Council formally expresses support for the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District and the services it provides to the public.

Section 3 – Transmittal of Resolution Upon City Council Approval.

Upon approval of this Resolution, the adopted Resolution shall be forwarded to the Indian River County Legislative Delegation, the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District, and any other interested parties.

Section 4 – Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective upon final adoption by the City Council.

This Resolution was heard on the ____ day of _____ 2022, at which time it was moved for adoption by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and adopted by the following vote:

Mayor Robert Brackett	_____
Vice-Mayor Rey Neville	_____
Councilmember Honey Minuse	_____
Councilmember Bob McCabe	_____
Councilmember John E. Cotugno	_____

ATTEST:

**CITY COUNCIL:
CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Tammy K. Bursick
City Clerk

By: _____
Robert Brackett
Mayor

(Seal)

Date: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF INDIAN RIVER

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization this _____ day of _____ 2022, by **Robert Brackett**, the Mayor, and attested by **Tammy K. Bursick**, the City Clerk, of the City of Vero Beach, Florida. Both are personally known to me.

Seal:

Sign: _____
Notary Public, State of Florida at Large
Print Name: _____
Notary Commission No.: _____
My Commission Expires: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
(For Internal Use Only–Sec. 2-77 COVB Code)

Approved as to form and legal
sufficiency:

Approved as conforming to municipal
policy:

John S. Turner
City Attorney

Monte K. Falls, P.E.
City Manager