

# Resolution

## *Northeast Florida Regional Council*

### RESOLUTION 2021-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF BAKER, CLAY, DUVAL, FLAGLER, NASSAU, PUTNAM, AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES, FLORIDA; OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA AS PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 62 OR SIMILAR PROPOSED LEGISLATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*WHEREAS*, the Northeast Florida Regional Council's seven county geographical area is comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties and 25 municipalities contained therein, with 1.75 million residents; and

*WHEREAS*, the Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

*WHEREAS*, for more than five decades Regional Planning Councils have served the public as Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions to multijurisdictional issues identified by their member local governments; and

*WHEREAS*, the 67 counties in the State are divided into 10 Regional Planning Councils that perform functions in Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, Regional Convening, and Resilience as directed by their member counties, cities, and gubernatorial appointees; and

*WHEREAS*, the Regional Planning Councils compete for and bring to Florida millions of dollars in federal funds for Economic Development, Transportation, and Environmental cleanup that would otherwise go to other states; and

*WHEREAS*, the Regional Planning Councils receive no regular general appropriation for operation from the State and, instead, are supported by Federal grant funds, local dues, local contracts, and State contracts for specific programs implemented on behalf of the State; and

*WHEREAS*, Regional Planning Councils no longer have any regulatory authority and are no longer involved in Developments of Regional Impacts (DRIs); and



**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Councils serve a critical role in hazardous material response coordination and training through the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) operated by each Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Councils regularly assist state agencies in implementing their statutory duties and legislative directives, along with coordinating these duties and directives with local input, at no charge to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Senate Bill 62 will remove authorization and all references to Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes, depriving the people of the State of the important work the Councils do and the Federal funds they bring into Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board that:

**Section 1.** The Legislature is urged not to pass Senate Bill 62 unless it is modified to no longer remove Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes; and

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

*Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the fourth day of February 2021.*



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**Sean Lynch**  
President

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**Elizabeth Payne**  
Chief Executive Officer