



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

**Resolution #: 38**

**Primary Sponsor:** García, Windlan  
**Co-Sponsor(s):** Barrett, Bettley, St. Hilaire  
**Date:** April 4, 2023

**Whereas:** Since 1965, global production of sugar cane has quadrupled in scale, with two billion metric tons of the crop being produced in recent years; and

**Whereas:** Harvesting sugar cane can be difficult due to the buildup of dried leaves at the base of the sugar cane crop, which accumulates over the course of the season; and

**Whereas:** Sugar cane producers across the state of Florida resort to the burning of this leafy material to simplify the farming process, leading to several issues in Floridian communities; and

**Whereas:** This “sugar cane burning” releases harmful particulate matter into the air, which pollutes the Florida environment, rivalling even the amount of pollution created by automobiles, with research done by Florida State University finding that sugarcane fires resulted in 5,100 metric tons of this particulate matter every year, whereas on-road motor vehicles in Florida emitted about 6,100 metric tons every year; and

**Whereas:** Sugar cane burning has also been linked to environmental racism, with marginalized communities being disproportionately affected by the burns, due to the proximity of many of these communities to the burn sites and there being many more active burn permits in these historically marginalized communities than in other parts of the state and area; and

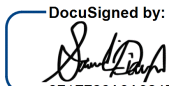
**Whereas:** The particles produced by sugar cane burning negatively affects the life of all residents in Florida, with the matter being linked to respiratory issues and exacerbating conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, and directly leading to an estimated three deaths per year; and

**Whereas:** There are many tried and tested alternatives to sugar cane burning, such as “green harvesting”, which involves cutting sugar cane while it is still green for immediate processing, in order to preserve the soil and air quality of our great state, among other methods; and

**Whereas:** Even though Florida’s cane sugar industry is the largest in the nation, producing a two billion dollar economic impact to the state, the burning process leading to pollution and long-term environmental damage, and disadvantaging already-marginalized communities, despite there being safer and more environmentally-friendly alternatives, is a willful neglect of the corporate responsibility to public wellbeing; therefore

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-fifth Student Senate at Florida State University that:** The Seventy-fifth Student Senate opposes the practice of sugar cane burning, and urges sugar cane producers in Florida and the Florida government to explore other options to replace this outdated practice.

DocuSigned by:



4/28/2023 | 11:42 AM PDT

OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Student Senate President**

**Senate Vote: 37-3-7**  
**PASSED: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**