

## **76<sup>th</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution**

Resolution #: 01

Primary Sponsor(s): Bevis

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Date:** 11/16/23

**Whereas:** Wakulla Springs, the world's largest and deepest freshwater spring, is a unique and valuable natural resource, known for its pristine waters, diverse ecosystems, and cultural significance, and

**Whereas:** Southwest Georgia Oil Company had proposed the construction of a gas station near Wakulla Springs, which could have posed significant environmental risks, including pollution of groundwater and surface water, disruption of delicate ecosystems, and degradation of water quality, and

**Whereas:** The Wakulla County Board of Commissioners recognized the potential threats posed by the proposed gas station and took action to prevent its construction, thereby safeguarding the integrity of Wakulla Springs and preserving its natural beauty, and

**Whereas:** The people of Wakulla County, its local officials, and concerned citizens across the State of Florida played an instrumental role in advocating for the protection of Wakulla Springs, and

**Whereas:** the efforts of Wakulla County have set an inspiring precedent for other communities to actively engage in the conservation of their natural resources and take decisive actions to prevent potential harm to their environment, therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-sixth Student Senate at Florida State University that: The Student Senate expresses its gratitude to Wakulla County and its Commissioners for its dedication to preserving and safeguarding Wakulla Springs from the potential harm posed by the proposed gas station, and

**Be it further resolved that:** The Student Senate also expresses its gratitude to all Wakulla County locals, environmental organizations, and Floridians who helped push and advocate against the proposed gas station, and

Be it further resolved that: we encourage Wakulla County to continue its efforts to protect Wakulla Springs, including but not limited to: collaborating with scientists, environmental organizations, and local stakeholders to develop comprehensive conservation plans that ensure the sustainability of the springs and surrounding ecosystems; implementing and enforcing regulations that prevent any potential sources of pollution or contamination that could jeopardize the quality of the springs' waters; and promoting public awareness and initiatives to encourage and increase understanding about the significance of Wakulla Springs, and

Be it further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to: Dr. Richard McCullough, President, Florida State University Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs Jack Hitchcock, Student Body President Ralph Thomas, Chair of the Wakulla County Commission Shawn Hamilton, Florida Secretary of Environmental Protection Ryan Smart, Executive Director of the Florida Springs Council David Edwards, Wakulla County Administrator Anthony Gaudio, Chairman of the Wakulla Springs Alliance Wakulla County Board of Commissioners

OFFICIAL:

DocuSigned by:

12/11/2023 | 9:12 AM PST

Student Senate President

**SENATE VOTE:** Acclamation **PASSED:** December 6th, 2023