

State of Florida

House of Representatives

Memorial ____

By Representative _____

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging the Congress to approve and fund the National Hurricane Research Initiative and A Program for Hurricane Intensity Forecast Improvements and Impacts Projections (HiFi) and to thereby implement improvements to hurricane intensity forecasting and impact projections.

Whereas, the National Science Board on December 1, 2006 posted the final report of its Committee on Programs and Plans Task Force on Hurricane Science and Engineering, entitled “Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative”, that called for provides an agenda for action including prioritized research imperatives, suggested organizational structure and budget, and recommendations for the National Science Foundation, and

Whereas, this National Science Board report recognizes that hurricane-induced economic losses have increased steadily in the United States during the past 50 years (billions of dollars annually), that the death toll associated with hurricanes in the last few years (approximately 1450) is intolerable and unnecessary, and that with 50 percent of the population of the entire United States lives within 50 miles of the coastline and trillions of dollars of current and new coastal physical infrastructure the economic and societal impacts of hurricanes can be expected to increase, and

Whereas, despite their destructive power, there is relatively little known about the most important aspects of hurricanes from an integrative perspective, including their internal dynamics and interactions with large-scale atmosphere and ocean; methods of quantifying and conveying uncertainty and mitigating hurricane impacts; associated short and long term consequences on the natural and built environment; and the manner in which society responds before, during, and after landfall, and

Whereas the National Science Board report recognizes that billions of tax dollars have been provided for rescue, recovery, and rebuilding after hurricanes strike and urges a national investment in the creation of new knowledge and more effective application of

existing knowledge to reduce these enormous public outlays, loss of life, and associated societal disruption cause by hurricanes, and

Whereas, the National Science Board recommends that an additional annual national investment of approximately \$300 million is required to implement this critical agenda and identifies as the first Investment Category to be: “Understanding and Prediction” with the following High Priority efforts: Predicting hurricane intensification and size, reducing the uncertainty associated with where and when hurricanes will make landfall; Understanding air-sea interactions; Predicting storm surge, rainfall, and inland flooding from hurricanes and tropical storms; and, Improved in situ observations, and

Whereas, a Program HiFi Program for Hurricane Intensity Forecast Improvements and Impact Projections (HiFi) Science Strategy dated November 1, 2006 was developed through the efforts a nationally recognized hurricane scientists, oceanographer, and meteorologists, including scientists from the State of Florida, that would undertake such research in the near term using revenues derived from offshore oil and gas production activities or otherwise, NOW THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States is requested to support the National Science Board recommendations and authorize and fund the HiFi Program in recognition that such scientific endeavors are expected to lead to improved intensity forecasts and impact projections that will provide earlier and more accurate hurricane warnings and therefore the reduction of the hurricane risks to Florida and the costs associated with such extreme weather phenomena, including the cost of hurricane related insurance costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress and that the of the Governor is urged to direct the efforts of the Office of Federal-State Relations accordingly and convey to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress this information and expression of support for this National Hurricane Research Initiative and the HiFi Program.