

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters and is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is designed to assist states and local communities in implementing a sustained, pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program; and

WHEREAS, the recently enacted federal "Disaster Recovery Reform Act" makes available new dollars for states and communities to undertake pre-disaster mitigation measures and creates new incentives for states to build resiliently; and

WHEREAS, since 1908, natural disasters have cost the country more than \$1 trillion; and

WHEREAS, disasters affect the local and state economies in lost payrolls, lost sales and income tax, and increased disaster recovery times; and

WHEREAS, according to a FEMA-commissioned study conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation with \$6 in future benefits; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of small businesses that are impacted by a natural disaster never reopen their doors; and

WHEREAS, September is National Preparedness Month in recognition of the need for all Americans to prepare and plan for recovery after a disaster; and

WHEREAS, mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage; and

WHEREAS, effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for relief services on volunteer organizations that must change their operations to provide additional services to those affected by disaster, including disaster rescue and recovery teams and food banks and homeless shelters who serve our communities; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women serving as our state's first responders deserve our sincere thanks for selflessly providing aid in a disaster to safeguard our state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, communities that build resiliently and develop long-range mitigation strategies are protecting people and property from future hazard events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby designate September 8th – 14th, 2019, as

RESILIENCY WEEK

and that all residents are encouraged to plan for future disasters by instituting a pre-disaster mitigation strategy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 10th day of September, 2019.