



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Policy and Legislation Committee Report
FNPS Board of Directors
August 10, 2019
Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid
Eugene Kelly, Chair

Members: Joan Bausch; Susan Carr; Scott Davis; Kara Driscoll; Dave Feagles; Karen Moser; Sue Mullins; Laura Reynolds; Winnie Said

Proposed Legislation of Concern to FNPS

Botany Bill (HR 1572)

The Policy Committee remains engaged in support of the “Botany Bill”. A draft letter asking Senator Marco Rubio to sign on as a cosponsor of the bill in the Senate has been drafted and will be mailed soon. A copy of the draft letter is provided as an attachment to this report.

US Rep Mike Quigley of Illinois filed the bill in the House of Representatives. Its formal title is the ***Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act***. Among other things, the bill would promote the use of native plant materials in habitat restoration projects, require the use of locally-adapted genotypes whenever possible, provide funding for research on native plants, and support the hiring of additional Botanists to federal land managing agencies (e.g., the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management). The Native Plant Conservation Campaign is leading and coordinating the effort to move the bill through the legislative process, and has secured the support of more than 80 organizations nationwide, including FNPS and at least five other native plant societies. At least five Florida members of the House of Representatives are named as cosponsors: Reps Francis Rooney, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Brian Mast, Alcee Hastings, and Darren Soto.

Southeast Chapters Initiative

Work related to the SE Chapters Initiative has been completed and the final deliverable – a guide to support advocacy by FNPS Chapters and individual members – is undergoing final review. We anticipate completing and distributing the guide within the next month so it can be used to assist chapters in organizing “take your legislators on a field trip” events in our continuing program to promote relationship building with Florida legislators.