



February 15, 2023

Via Email to the: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

Re: House Bill 359

Dear Representatives,

We write to state our strong opposition to HB 359, which we believe would stifle legitimate public concern and comment regarding local land-use decisions, comprehensive plans or plan amendments.

The unfettered voice of the public is critical in our democracy to balance the investment-backed actions of lobbyists and developers. Local citizens are in the best position to foresee possible negative impacts to their quality of life of any new regulations or proposed projects in their immediate vicinity.

Historically, there has been a balance in policy decisions. Approving a policy that would quash the likelihood that citizens, citizen groups, and NGOs would oppose questionable Comprehensive Plan Changes and/or Land-Use Regulations, by mandating the loser of any related litigation to pay all related costs incurred by the prevailing party, is not acceptable or fair. It would place undue burden upon individuals or public interest groups, often against the deep pockets of developers and local governments.

In the strongest possible terms, **we urge you to vote against HB 359.**

Thank you for considering our position.

For the Last Stand Board,

Ann Olsen, President

Last Stand is a non-profit organization of volunteer citizens who are interested in preserving the Florida Keys' unique quality of life and our fragile, beautiful natural environment. We have worked tirelessly since 1987 to protect Key West and the Florida Keys.