

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11-103

WHEREAS, although economic progress has been made in many rural areas, the growth and prosperity enjoyed by most communities in the State during the past 45 years did not extend to Florida's rural areas; and

WHEREAS, these communities are stewards of the vast majority of Florida's land and natural resources, upon which the State's growth and prosperity depend; and

WHEREAS, successful rural communities are essential to the overall success of the State's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, certain rural communities are struggling to maintain, support or enhance job creating activity or to generate revenues for education and other critical government services such as infrastructure, transportation and safety; and

WHEREAS, the challenges faced by these rural communities threaten their well-being and viability; and

WHEREAS, section 288.0656(7), Florida Statutes, authorizes the Rural Economic Development Initiative to recommend to the Governor up to three areas for designation as rural areas of critical economic concern; and

WHEREAS, a rural area of critical economic concern is a rural community, or a region composed of rural communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact; and

WHEREAS, Wakulla County has requested designation as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern within an existing Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern because of

economic distress and other extraordinary events including the negative economic consequences of the 1995 Net Ban Amendment, continued effects of Tropical Storms Dennis (2005) and Fay (2008), and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and

WHEREAS, several representatives of state and regional agencies and organizations participating in the Rural Economic Development Initiative agreed to recommend to the Governor the designation of Wakulla County; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 10-22 designated the Northwest Florida area within the boundaries of the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Holmes, Liberty and Washington and the area within the city limits of Freeport as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.

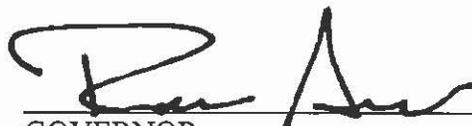
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by article IV, section 1(a), Florida Constitution, and section 288.0656(7), Florida Statutes, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. Executive Order 10-22 is hereby amended to include Wakulla County within the area designated as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.

Section 2. Except as amended herein, Executive Order 10-22 remains in effect.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 5th day of May, 2011.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA