

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4804

To authorize appropriations for construction of a research facility in Broward County, Florida, to be used in connection with efforts to control *Melaleuca* and other exotic plant species that threaten native ecosystems in the State of Florida.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 1994

Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CANADY, Mr. GOSS, Mr. BACCHUS of Florida, Mrs. MEEK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS of Florida, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUTTO, Mr. PETERSON of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mrs. THURMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for construction of a research facility in Broward County, Florida, to be used in connection with efforts to control *Melaleuca* and other exotic plant species that threaten native ecosystems in the State of Florida.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) is a
2 noxious weed which is changing the fragile eco-
3 system in and around the Everglades National Park
4 to the detriment of South Florida's water supply.

5 (2) Although Melaleuca was originally intro-
6 duced into the State of Florida from Australia in the
7 early 1900s to help dry up the Everglades, it now
8 threatens to permanently replace and eliminate Flor-
9 ida's natural plant communities and the animals
10 that live in them.

11 (3) The State of Florida loses an incredible 52
12 acres a day to Melaleuca.

13 (4) According to experts most acquainted with
14 the Melaleuca problem, the best long-range hope for
15 control and suppression of serious, widespread pest
16 plants like Melaleuca is an approach called "classical
17 biocontrol".

18 (5) The major factor that is impeding progress
19 to find a suitable insect to control Melaleuca is the
20 lack of quarantine space. The Aquatic Plant Man-
21 agement Laboratory presently shares a quarantine
22 facility at Gainesville, Florida, with the Florida De-
23 partment of Agriculture and the University of Flor-
24 ida at Gainesville. However, the Gainesville facility is
25 far from the main infestations of Melaleuca, and fa-

1 cility space specifically to quarantine insects to con-
2 trol *Melaleuca* is limited.

3 (6) The University of Florida has donated land
4 on its campus in Davie, Florida, where the quar-
5 antine facility will be located.

6 (7) Although this facility will be primarily used
7 to battle *Melaleuca*, it will also be used to quar-
8 antine insects for other exotic plants.

9 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 Section 108(c) of the Water Resources Development
11 Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4816) is amended by striking
12 “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”.

○