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GOVERNOR

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As the State of Florida's first Chief Resilience Officer, I am proud to support the formation of a Southwest Florida Resiliency Compact. Creating this compact could lead to a more unified approach in addressing the environmental, physical, and economic impacts of rising sea levels and extreme weather in Florida. The compact could work together to advocate in areas such as clean alternatives in energy, sustainable infrastructure projects, and other natural resource solutions through the Southwest Florida region.

Building a partnership among the Southwest Florida counties will help create a collaborative effort toward resiliency that will allow better sharing of data and new vulnerability assessments for each community. With each county's participation and insights, stronger communication and cooperation will be established, leading to more efficient planning efforts throughout each community. Steadily rising sea levels can be addressed in a way specifically tailored for the region's geography and economy by identifying concrete projects that are cost-efficient.

As we face continuous climate threats throughout our state, we must ensure that every region is given adequate representation and preparation for the future with available resources and funding. Southwest Florida has its own unique strengths and challenges that could be amplified and become more competitive to receive dedicated funding toward resiliency projects.

I appreciate and recognize the tremendous impact that cooperation and teamwork have with the active participation of our regional planning councils, and I am certain that the formation of the Southwest Florida Climate Compact will help pave the way for more Floridians to be better equipped with the necessary tools and resources toward a resilient community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Nesheiwat".

Dr. Julia Nesheiwat
Chief Resilience Officer
State of Florida