



## Oppose Sunscreen Preemption - HB 113

### Contact Rep. Spencer Roach to oppose HB 113

A bill to preempt local governments from enacting environmental protections by banning sun screens that contain 2 chemicals that studies indicate are harmful to coral reefs is up tomorrow, 1/21/20, at 9 am. **HB 113 Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act**, sponsored by Rep.

Spencer Roach, Lee County, is up in the House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. This is the house companion bill to **SB 172**, sponsored by Sen. Rob Bradley, that was heard and passed last week. The bill would preempt local governments, such as the City of Key West, from enacting regulation of over-the-counter drugs and cosmetics, including all sunscreens. These bills are in reaction to the City of Key West's ban of sunscreens containing the chemicals, oxybenzone and octinoxate, that studies indicate can harm coral reefs.



Sponsors of the preemption express concern that such local regulation will cause people to not use sunscreen. While there is no evidence that would be the result, sunscreens come in 2 forms; chemical and mineral. Mineral sunscreens do not contain these chemicals of concern, instead using minerals such as zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide to physically block and reflect the sun's rays as opposed to chemicals that rely on a chemical reaction. Dermatologists prefer the use of mineral sun screens that provide protection against both UVA and UVB rays.

Protecting coral reefs is important to the sustainability of marine habitat, biodiversity and productivity and fuels the tourism economy in the Keys and Key West. NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates the value of coral reefs at \$8.5 billion that supports approximately 70,000 full and part-time jobs.

We need to protect coral reefs, public health and local governments ability to protect their environment and economy. This preemption is limiting a local government action without any alternative, protective state action. This is a lose-lose, it hurts state resources as well as the local economy.

Last year Governor DeSantis vetoed a state preemption of plastic straws noting the bill had not frustrated any state policy or harmed the state's interest. Please contact Spencer Roach by email or by telephone to let him know that we do not support preemption legislation that prevents local government from protecting natural resources and working in the public interest.

### Take Action

There is still time to protect local control by opposing this bill. Please email Rep. Roach at [Spencer.roach@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Spencer.roach@myfloridahouse.gov) or call his Tallahassee Office at (850) 717-5079.

Thank you.

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