



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
Room 420, The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Corcoran,

In November 2014, Florida voters approved an amendment to the State Constitution which requires no less than 33 percent of documentary stamp revenue to be placed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and spent on a variety of environmental programs and initiatives. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests that the legislature increase funding in the 2017-2018 budget from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Florida Forever program. The Florida Forever Conservation and Recreation Lands Acquisition Program and the Rural and Family Lands Act Program may use this increase of funding for the acquisition and preservation of lands by conservation easement, purchase of development rights, or fee simple acquisition, to protect our future prosperity.

Preserving environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands is necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout St. Johns County and Florida. Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of our quality of life and economy. Our population and development is expected to grow over the next two decades and land conservation is an accepted way to buffer the impacts of growth on our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The St. Johns County Commission stands ready to work with the Florida Forever program to help identify additional preservation and conservation lands within St. Johns County.

Sincerely,



James K. Johns
Chair, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

CC: The Honorable Travis Hutson, Florida Senate, District 7
The Honorable Jack Latvala, Florida Senate, District 16
The Honorable Rob Bradley, Florida Senate, District 5
The Honorable Cyndi Stevenson, Florida House of Representatives, District 17
The Honorable Paul Renner, Florida House of Representatives, District 24
Mr. Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, Audubon Florida
St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Joe Negron, President
Florida Senate
Room 409, The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Negron,

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