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ALACHUA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION 2017 - 31**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Alachua County and Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, population and development impacts are expected to grow over the next two decades and land conservation is an accepted way to buffer the impacts of growth on natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection states: "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

**WHEREAS**, 72% of Alachua County voters and 75% of Florida voters (4.2 million citizens) voted on November 4, 2014 to approve an Amendment to Article X, Section 28 of the Florida Constitution to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands; and

1           **WHEREAS**, it is the request of Alachua County that the legislature fulfill its obligation  
2 to the people to provide significant funding for conservation land acquisition as called for in the  
3 2014 Amendment; and

4           **WHEREAS**, these lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition,  
5 conservation easement, or purchase of development rights to protect our future prosperity.

6           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY**  
7 **COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:**


8           1.       ALACHUA County respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature  
9 significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation  
10 easements in the 2017-2018 budget.

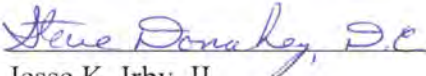
11          2.       Alachua County considers the acquisition, protection and management of  
12 environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of this County and the  
13 State of Florida.


14                        PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017

17                        **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
18                        **OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

21    ATTEST:

20                        By:   
21                        Ken Cornell, Chair  
22                        Board of County Commissioners

23                          
24                        Jesse K. Irby, II  
25                        Clerk of Court

26                        APPROVED AS TO FORM  
27                          
28                        Alachua County Attorney

29                        (SEAL)