

RESOLUTION 2017-04-12A

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THE STATE
LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET.**

WHEREAS, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Madison 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, Florida's 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, 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

WHEREAS, Madison County has sensitive lands that should be consider; including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Madison County respectfully requests that the Florida State Legislature fulfill its obligation under the 2014 Amendment 1 and provide funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements in the 2017-2018 budget. And be it resolved that Madison County considers the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the

future of this County and the State of Florida.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED after motion, second and majority vote favoring the same, this 12th day of April, 2017.

Alfred Martin, Chair
ATTEST: