

**RESOLUTION**  
**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR**  
**THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**  
**IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida, has made the following determinations:

1. There are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access through St. Lucie County and Florida.
2. Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy. 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.
3. 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".
4. Approximately 81% of St. Lucie 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.
5. It is the request of St. Lucie County that the legislature fulfill its obligation to the people to provide significant funding for conservation land acquisition as called for in the 2014 Amendment. These lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition, conservation easement, or purchase of development rights to protect our future prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida:

1. This Board respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements in the 2017-2018 budget.
2. Be it resolved that this Board considers the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of St. Lucie County and the State of Florida.
3. The County Administrator is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the County's state legislative delegation.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

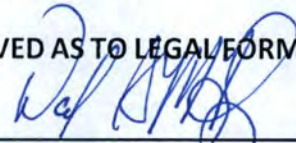
**ATTEST:**

  
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**DEPUTY CLERK**



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**BY:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND CONTENT**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

