

RESOLUTION NO. 95- 208

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY URGING THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE PRESERVATION 2000 PROGRAM; REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION 2000 PROGRAM FROM THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, THE FLORIDA SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, THE FLORIDA SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATES FROM THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS (18), (19), AND (20), AND THE FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICTS (2) , (6) AND (8).

Whereas, St. Johns County citizens have an interest and concern for the protection of natural lands; and

Whereas, Preservation 2000 is a ten-year program designed to acquire and therefore save Florida's best remaining natural land, and is the state's most comprehensive land protection program; and

Whereas, scientific calculations predict that all remaining natural areas in Florida by the turn of the century will either be protected or developed; and

Therefore, the ratio of developed land to open space depends heavily on the continued funding of Preservation 2000; and

Whereas, Preservation 2000 is now in the sixth year and has already saved environmentally sensitive land in 58 counties throughout Florida; and

Whereas, Preservation 2000 is a wise investment for our children and grandchildren; and

Whereas, Preservation 2000 protects Florida's beaches, trails, game management areas and rivers. These natural lands are open to the public and offer Floridians and visitors a variety of recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, land in Florida will never be as available, or affordable as it is right now; and

Whereas, Preservation 2000 offers an opportunity for a partnership between St. Johns County and the state to protect environmentally sensitive lands and support carrying out of our County Comprehensive Plan; and

Whereas, St. Johns County recognizes the importance of Preservation 2000 in enabling the achievement of conservation goals, growth management and comprehensive land use plans; and

Whereas, leaders in the tourism industry have recognized the economic importance of protecting natural and recreational areas; and

Whereas, by funding Preservation 2000, the Florida Legislature provides our state's tourism industry with an advantage over other states,

Whereas, Preservation 2000 funding for the Florida Communities Trust Program, the Rails to Trails Program, the Division of Forestry, the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the Division of Recreation and Parks will be repealed effective October 6, 1996 unless the Legislature reenacts or modifies the funding formula in the Preservation 2000 Act

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA,

Section 1. That the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners hereby urges the Legislature of the State of Florida to:

- A. Appropriate \$5 million for a seventh series of Preservation 2000 Bonds.
- B. Keep the existing Preservation 2000 distribution formula intact. Re-authorize funding for the Florida Communities Trust, Division of Forestry, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Division of Recreation and Parks, and Rails to Trails Program.

Section 2. That the County Clerk be hereby directed to furnish copies of this resolution to the members of the St. Johns County Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 28th day of November, 1995.

Board of County Commissioners
of St. Johns County, Florida

BY: Ronald Gordon
Chair

ATTEST: Carl "Bud" Markel, Clerk

Rosemary Lewis
By: Deputy Clerk