

RESOLUTION NO. 99 - 66

A RESOLUTION BY THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM TO PRESERVATION 2000.

WHEREAS, Preservation 2000 has been the state of Florida's premier land preservation program which has acquired and therefore saved much of Florida's best remaining natural land; and

WHEREAS, Florida's population continues to grow by more than 700 people per day and accounts for the rapid conversion of forests, wetlands, farms, wilderness, and other green space; and

WHEREAS, We must protect and restore water resources for natural systems and human use, as well as habitat for plants, animals, and fisheries; and

WHEREAS, We must provide exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation for all Floridians and visitors in order to enhance Florida's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, We must ensure the effective long-term management of public lands; and

WHEREAS, Florida's native plant and animal species do not yet have sufficient habitat for survival and Florida's wild lands are being invaded by non-native plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, Land acquisitions under Preservation 2000 have provided significant environmental protection but has not yet completed the job of setting aside enough land and water areas to meet Florida's pressing natural resource needs; and

WHEREAS, In anticipation of the expiration of Preservation 2000, a successor program has been proposed as a new land conservation program to succeed Preservation 2000 and further the protection of Florida's exceptional wild lands; and

WHEREAS, A successor program would provide funding for land acquisition and management to meet Florida's critical needs to continue to preserve our remaining wild lands, protect our crucial water resources, provide local recreational opportunities, manage publicly owned conservation and recreation lands, and restore major ecosystems in Florida.

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. Support the authorization of the 10th series of Preservation 2000 bonds.
 - B. Support the creation of a new land and water conservation program that continues Florida's long tradition of land acquisition conservation.
- Section 2. That the County Clerk be hereby delegated 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 THIS 20th DAY OF APRIL 1999.

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

By: Marc Jacalone
Marc Jacalone, Chairman

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Patricia De Grande
Deputy Clerk

