

RESOLUTION 2001-76

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA,
OPPOSING THE EXPENDITURE OF PRESERVATION 2000 FUNDS FOR
EVERGLADES RESTORATION**

WHEREAS, Chapter 259.101, Florida Statutes, entitled the “Florida Preservation 2000 Act”, was designed to preserve Florida’s critical natural areas from destruction, degradation and fragmentation; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, St. Johns County has initiated and developed a land acquisition program to partner with state agencies to implement the Florida Preservation 2000 Act and preserve thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive habitat; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County has been strongly committed to conservation land acquisition under the Florida Preservation 2000 Act; and

WHEREAS, the intention of the Legislature expressed in 259.101(2)(e), Florida Statutes, was to fund the implementation of the Florida Preservation 2000 Act for each of the 10 years of the program’s duration and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed to utilize \$100 million in Florida Preservation 2000 Act funds obligated for other conservation projects statewide to replace the \$100 million in general revenue previously obligated by the Legislature for Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, enactment of the proposed legislation would break the promise made by the Florida Legislature that authorized revenue based funding for Everglades Restoration; and

WHEREAS, the \$100 million proposed to be redirected from the Florida Preservation 2000 trust fund to Everglades restoration is obligated to the purchase of conservation properties authorized and approved pursuant to the Florida Preservation 2000 Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would put land acquisition projects in St. Johns County as well as throughout Florida in jeopardy in an attempt to sacrifice other environmental priorities for Everglades restoration funding; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will pit Everglades restoration against other environmental priorities throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of land acquisition programs, such as the St. Johns County's Land Acquisition and Management Program (L.A.M.P.), depends on the strength of the partnerships between local governments and the State of Florida.

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

SECTION I .: The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners strongly opposes any legislation which jeopardizes the implementation of the Florida Preservation 2000 Act or the Florida Forever Act by reducing their funding allocation.

SECTION II.: This Resolution shall become effective on the date of signature below.

PASSED AND ENACTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 17th day of April, 2001.

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

By: Mary J. Kohnke
Mary J. Kohnke, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court

By: Juanne King
Deputy Clerk