A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OPPOSING THE REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT UNITED STATES TARIFF ON IMPORTED CITRUS PRODUCTS; PROVIDING COPIES OF THE RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS AND THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products will have a devastating adverse impact the Florida Citrus industry; and

WHEREAS, Florida Citrus has been an integral part of the State of Florida during its entire existence; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of this industry not only affects Florida’s citrus growers, but many affiliated businesses and local governments throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida and Brazil produce over 90% of all processed orange juice in the world and the loss of Florida production would result in a monopoly for the Brazilian citrus industry; and

WHEREAS, the Florida citrus industry employs approximately 90,000 people and has an economic impact of $9.1 billion to the state and the over 26,000 acres of citrus in Hillsborough County represents $25,100,000 in sales; and

WHEREAS, the 800,000 acres used in Florida citrus production provide numerous environmental benefits to the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida citrus growers require few services but provide employment, tax revenue, economic stability, water recharge, aesthetic beauty, and a way of life that has existed for more than one hundred years.

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

SECTION 1. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners opposes any reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products.

SECTION 2. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners joins Hillsborough County in requesting that other County Commissions support this resolution.
SECTION 3. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor, the St. Johns County Legislative and Congressional delegations, and the Hillsborough County Commissions.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of July, 2003.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

By: James E. Bryant, Chairman
St. Johns County Commission

ATTEST:
Cheryl Strickland
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 7-2-03