

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR \$125 MILLION FUNDING FOR FLORIDA FOREVER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 program have contributed immeasurably to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, and its predecessor Preservation 2000, historically allocated \$300 million annually to purchase and restore environmentally sensitive and outdoor recreation lands and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water-management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever was the vehicle to deliver funding for land conservation by various state agencies, including the Florida Communities Trust (FCT). The FCT has been a successful local-government assistance program under the Florida Forever umbrella. It has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings, and

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WHEREAS, over thirty local Florida governments, including Indian River County, have enacted land-acquisition financing programs in past decades, and those conservation programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land-conservation funding, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Indian River County have benefited greatly from the FCT program by receiving matching funds that helped fund twenty-one different acquisition projects while receiving over \$25,000,000.00 from the program, and

WHEREAS, after years of neglect by the Florida Legislature, the citizens of Florida voted overwhelmingly in 2014 to support the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment ("Amendment 1") to restore funding to Florida Forever, and

WHEREAS, the Florida State Legislature has continued to underfund Florida Forever specifically, and land conservation generally, despite the passage of Amendment 1 with approval by over 75% of voters, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida experienced the second largest population growth in the country from July 2019-July 2020, adding over 240,000 new residents, which accelerated the pressures of development on environmentally significant lands, and

WHEREAS, Indian River County desires to direct their local legislative delegation to make land conservation a priority again.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

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1. The Board encourages the Florida Legislature to fund the Florida Forever program at \$125 million for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

2. The Chairman is authorized to send this resolution to the Legislative Delegation and the Governor relaying its support for funding Florida Forever.

3. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

The resolution was moved for adoption by Commissioner _____, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Joseph E. Flescher	_____
Vice Chairman Peter D. O'Bryan	_____
Commissioner Susan Adams	_____
Commissioner Joe Earman	_____
Commissioner Laura Moss	_____

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this ____ day of _____, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By _____
Joseph Flescher, Chairman

ATTEST: Jeffrey R. Smith
Clerk of Court

Deputy Clerk