



July 30, 2019

Mr. Bob Solari, County Commission Chair
Indian River County Board of Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3388

Dear Commissioner Solari,

For the last 25 years, the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation has been very fortunate to have had use of county land on the campus of the 64-acre Environmental Learning Center (ELC) on Wabasso Island. We moved and have maintained and preserved the residence of noted writer, Laura (Riding) Jackson, who lived in Wabasso from 1943 until her death in 1991. After her death, the Foundation moved the circa 1910s structure to the ELC campus. It has been both a literary landmark and structure that shows how people lived in the county's pioneering times. Today's visitor appreciates seeing how much our use of the environment has changed.

After being notified by the ELC Board that our lease was cancelled, we have been doing extensive fundraising to move the house again. We are fortunate to have been offered a new location: a site at Indian River Community College's Mueller Campus. We look forward to the partnership with IRSC and the continued preservation of this historic author residence museum for the use of our citizens and visitors.

We didn't want to depart without expressing our deep gratitude to the county for keeping a large part of Wabasso Island available for public use. It is our hope that the county will continue to cherish that land and ensure that it is kept for public benefit and multiple non-profit uses.

Thank you, again, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Marie Stiefel, President
Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation Board