

*Bob Solari
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District 5*

*Susan Adams
Vice Chairman
District 1*



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District 3*

*Peter D. O'Bryan
District 4*

May 20, 2019

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: HB 771

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County wishes to express its appreciation for your veto of HB 771. Although Indian River County has not adopted a local regulation of single-use plastic straws, the Board believes that local governments should be permitted to exercise Home Rule authority. As you noted in your veto letter, if citizens do not like the ordinances that their local officials enact, they can seek recourse by electing officials who share their views.

Conceptually, Home Rule in Florida is similar to Federalism. Federalism allows the Federal government to focus on a few areas of national importance, leaving the bulk of day to day matters to the state. Home Rule allows local governments to address local issues while the State legislature attends to issues of statewide importance. The past legislative session, which began with some 3,500 bills, highlights the wisdom of home rule. The 160 men and women of the Florida Legislature simply have too much to do in their two-month session to adequately address statewide needs and micromanage 67 counties and over 400 municipalities.

Yes, local governments do sometimes do the wrong thing, but as the historian of democracy, James Kloppenburg notes: "...the flexibility and open-endedness of democracy make it particularly suitable for cultures increasingly attuned to a scientific sensibility, committed to testing multiple hypotheses through trial and error and examining the consequences through open inquiry." In short, democracy should accommodate experimentation.

Your veto of HB 771 supports both our democratic system and better government in Florida. Thank you.

Sincerely,

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//

Bob Solari
Chairman

1801 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1490