



# Charlotte County Government

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May 5, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 23299

Re: Letter of Support for Florida's 2021-2022 Budget

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the entire Charlotte County Commission, I am writing this letter in support of several budget items of interest to Charlotte County and to thank you for taking such a strong lead on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Our state has seen difficult times, but your leadership through the pandemic has been paramount to our success. That leadership was highlighted throughout this legislative session where your administration worked tirelessly to fund and support items that returned us back to normal.

In addition, combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the County is also very focused on our water quality issues, specifically our septic to sewer program and Manasota Key/Stump Pass beach project both of which will be critical for increasing normalcy and tourism. To that end, the County has worked very hard to secure both local and state dollars for several items in the FY 2021-2022 budget.

For years, the County has prioritized its legislative efforts on water quality issues. This year, the budget includes \$1,000,000 for the Charlotte Harbor Water Quality Initiative – Phase III Countryman/Ackerman Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Project (See Line Item-1607A HB 3593 (Rep. M. Grant). Seeking funding for constructing central wastewater service to 1,933 properties to replace inadequate On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDSs). Restoring the storm water conveyance system to improve removal of sediment and pollutants and educating property owners on Best Management Practices (BMPs) when applying pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Additionally, the county has been taking necessary steps on tackling beach erosion and climate change. Our Manasota Key 10-year Beach Management Plan: \$1,101,438\* (\*Beach Management Funding Assistance Program: \$100,000,000 Line Item-1647) One of the key aspects of this project is that its regional project that includes shoreline from north of the Sarasota County line to the Stump Pass Beach State Park. Tropical Storm Colin in June of 2016 had severe impacts to the shoreline resulting in the condemnation of two structures. Seeking

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

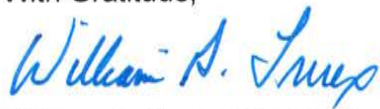
18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536 | Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1068  
Phone: 941.743.1300 | Fax: 941.743.1310

state cost share for the design and monitoring of the Manasota Key 10-year beach management plan which has become critically eroded. The beach was further eroded during Hurricane Irma.

Separately, we would like to respectfully express our opposition to HB 337 Impact Fees, HB 735 Occupational Licensing, and the constant infringement of home rule that has been promoted and passed from the Legislature. Proximity is a key metric to accountability and the constant effort to infringe on home rule will only diminish accountability for Floridians.

Your support for all these projects would assist our County in assisting you with moving important state interests in economic development, tourism, and quality of life. On behalf of the entire Charlotte County Commission, we greatly appreciate your consideration.

With Gratitude,



William G. Truex, Chairman  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

WGT:j

cc: Board of County Commissioners