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July 21, 2025

The Honorable Rick Scott 110 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Ashley Moody B40-B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Steube 2457 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Scott and Moody, and Representative Steube,

On behalf of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your engagement and support regarding the Rotonda Bridge repair project following the significant damage sustained during Hurricane Ian.

As you are aware, the County endured a drawn-out determination process and initially faced a denial of FEMA funding due to the agency's finding that pre-existing damage rendered the project ineligible. With the support of our legal counsel, we pursued arbitration. We are pleased to inform you that the judge ruled in Charlotte County's favor, confirming that the hurricane—not prior conditions—was the cause of the substantial structural damage. The ruling directed FEMA and the County to continue working together to determine appropriate funding reimbursement.

We are currently engaged in that process and remain committed to working with FEMA to finalize the funding determination and move this critical infrastructure project forward. The construction bid package is expected by mid-July 2025, and the engineer's estimate places the project cost at approximately \$2.2 million.

In the meantime, we have received the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) permit and have submitted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit application. As of the most recent update, our project is in the queue for review by USACE staff.

We are grateful for your continued advocacy and attention to this matter and will keep you informed as the project progresses. Should you need any additional information or assistance from our office, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tiseo, Chairman

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

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cc:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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