



SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236
phone: 941-861-5344 fax: 941-861-5987

January 26, 2016

Christine P. Johnson, President
Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast
P.O. Box 902
Osprey, FL 34229

RE: Orange Hammock Ranch Conservation

Dear Ms. Johnson:

On behalf of the Sarasota County Commission, we are pleased to provide support for the permanent conservation of the entire 5,774 acre Orange Hammock Ranch property. Conserving Orange Hammock Ranch presents Sarasota County and the City of North Port with the significant opportunity to protect the quality and quantity of North Port's drinking water supply; help alleviate downstream flooding; protect irreplaceable habitat for a variety of wildlife; and provide recreational opportunities.

Protecting Orange Hammock Ranch has been a focus of conservation for almost twenty years. In 1988, the property was one of Sarasota County's original Protection Priority Sites because of its high ecological value. The Environmentally Sensitive Land Protection Oversight Committee (ESLOC) approved the acquisition of the property on October 7, 2010.

The Sarasota County Commission appreciates the long history of collaboration with Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast and asks that you please keep us informed on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alan Maio
Chairman

c: Sarasota County Commission
Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
Carolyn Brown, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources