



March 17, 2022

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Letter of Support for Florida's 2022-2023 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. The County has worked very hard to secure both local and state dollars for several items in the FY 2022-2023 budget.

For years, the County has prioritized its legislative efforts on water quality issues. This year, the budget includes \$2,000,000 for the Charlotte Harbor Water Quality Initiative – Phase III Countryman/Ackerman Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Project (See Line Item-1665A HB 9115 (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). Of note, our Ackerman project is not eligible for current grant programs, so a state appropriation is both necessary and appropriate. Also, the budget includes \$2,000,000 for the Charlotte County Utilities Communication/Cybersecurity (See Line Item-1665A HB 9109 (Rep. M. Grant)). This project will unify the 12 platforms into 1, upgrade antiquated infrastructure, and provide the county with a security standard and framework for future buildings and capital renewal.

Additionally, the budget includes \$2,000,000 for the Charlotte County William R. Gaines, Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park (See Line Item 2286A HB 9121 (Rep. M. Grant)). This Park and the tower that these funds will be used for will honor the memory of Corporal William R. Gaines, Jr. as well as all veterans and first responders. Corporal Gaines was a local resident of Charlotte County who was killed in the line of duty in the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of Marine barracks in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Overall, 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:cp/dw

cc: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners
The Honorable State Representative Michael Grant
The Honorable Senator Albritton
The Honorable Senator Gruters