



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 6, 2015

Honorable Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Year one Amendment 1 allocation for the acquisition of globally-imperiled pine rocklands habitat in Miami-Dade County

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing this letter to request that the State of Florida allocate funds pursuant to the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Florida Constitutional Amendment 1 to acquire certain environmentally sensitive pine rocklands located in Miami-Dade County.

As you know, 75.64 percent of Florida voters overwhelmingly approved Florida Constitutional Amendment 1 on November 4, 2014, which authorizes no less than 33 percent of net revenues collected from the existing excise tax on real estate documents to be used to acquire, restore, and improve land and water areas throughout Florida. The revenues collected pursuant to this amendment may be used to finance the acquisition and improvement of conservation land and outdoor recreation areas.

Miami-Dade County contains the majority of what is left of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory designated Globally-Imperiled Habitat, the pine rocklands. Originally 185,000 acres of pine rocklands forest existed throughout the County, but now only 3,700 acres remain outside of Everglades National Park. The largest pine rocklands outside the National Park is a tract within and adjacent to Zoo Miami in an area commonly referred to as the Richmond Pinelands, located in southern Miami-Dade County. While portions of these critically-endangered pinelands have been acquired and are protected by Miami-Dade County, other portions remain in private ownership, or are owned by non-county agencies and institutions. The Richmond Pinelands are known to contain state and federally listed endangered species.

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In August 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service also designated portions of these lands as critical habitat for two federally listed endangered butterfly species. Acquisition of these lands provides the best opportunity for preservation of this unique and critically important habitat in this area.

Please accept this letter as my request for your consideration in allocating some portion of year one Amendment 1 proceeds to the acquisition of these critically important pine rocklands within the Richmond Pinelands.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Please contact me to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County



Honorable Dennis C. Moss
Miami-Dade County
County Commissioner – District 9

c: Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Michael Spring, Senior Advisor/Director
Cultural Affairs

Jack Kardys, Director
Parks Recreation and Open Spaces