The following information is provided by

EAR Task Force Member David Torbert

(representative of Dade County Farm Bureau)

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May 20,2026

County Development Master Plan Board of Directors
Miami-Dade County

Subject: Position Statement Regarding the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan-Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Dear Members of the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan-Evaluation and Appraisal Report Taskforce

On behalf of the Dade County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, we respectfully submit our position regarding the Comprehensive Development Master Plan Evaluation and matters concerning future growth within Miami-Dade County.

The Farm Bureau respects private property rights and the lawful development of landowners. However, we support growth management policies that direct development in a smart, orderly manner that protects long-term agricultural viability and prevents unnecessary conversion of productive farmland.

We remain committed to preserving and protecting agricultural land within Miami-Dade County. As discussions regarding future growth and development continue, we encourage careful consideration of the long-term impacts that changes to land use policies and development patterns may have on agricultural operations, rural communities, and private property rights. Maintaining a strong and sustainable agricultural industry is essential to the economic, environmental, and cultural future of our county.

We support adherence to the current Master Plan process and requirements and believe that private mitigation measures, as currently established, should remain the standard without deviation. Farm Bureau supports optimizing development opportunities within the current UDB to alleviate housing shortages and reduce pressure for movement of the UDB.

Should the UDB ultimately be amended or expanded, we recommend that all new growth be integrated through incremental, contiguous movements along the entire boundary rather than large, discontinuous expansions into agricultural areas. These types of expansions remove large contiguous agricultural parcels from production, disrupt equipment movement, and create enclaves that increase pressure for further boundary movement and additional loss of agricultural acreage.

Any application to move the UDB should also be required to provide an agricultural disclosure statement and notice of the Florida Right to Farm Act to all future purchasers, ensuring transparency regarding nearby agricultural operations and activities.

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Farm Bureau does not support designating a specific protected area for agricultural preservation. All agricultural areas are unique, productive, and equally important to the long-term viability of the industry.

In addition, we advocate for the inclusion and expansion of farmworker housing provisions both inside and outside of the UDB to support the workforce that is vital to our agricultural community.

We request that the plan recognize paved roadways within agricultural areas as economically significant infrastructure. We also strongly encourage the County to prioritize the proper maintenance of these roads, not only for public safety, but also to ensure reliable access for emergency responders and agricultural transportation needs.

Regarding Policy LU-10I, we recommend that all County landscape projects utilize locally sourced materials, including trees and plant stock grown within Miami-Dade County, in support of our local agricultural industry.

We discourage the conversion of viable agricultural land for non-agricultural uses, including private mitigation banks and large-scale solar facilities. These uses permanently remove productive farmland from agricultural production and may create compatibility concerns for surrounding farms and rural communities. Mitigation credits generated from these sites may also be utilized outside Miami-Dade County, providing no direct benefit to local agriculture or long-term food production capacity.

Regardless of the proposed use, whether mitigation banking, solar development, residential projects, or other non-agricultural purposes, the conversion of agricultural land results in the permanent loss of productive farmland and threatens the long-term sustainability, economic strength, and viability of agriculture in Miami-Dade County.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and recommendations as you evaluate the future development of Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

Heather L Moehling

Heather Moehling

President, Dade County Farm Bureau