



FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE

June 21, 2024

Allison DeFoor, President
North Florida Land Trust
834 W Monroe Street
Jacksonville FL 32202

Re: Suwannee to Gulf (S2G) RCPP Project Proposal

Dear Dr. DeFoor,

On behalf of Florida Farm Bureau Federation and our 132,000 member families, I express our support for the Suwannee to Gulf (S2G) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project proposal submitted by North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

If funded, this RCPP project will provide significant improvements to wildlife habitat, water quality, water conservation, and drought resilience in the designated project area. In addition, the project will provide substantial assistance to cropland, grasslands and working forestland by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements, and support farmers, ranchers and forest landowners with the integration of conservation best management practices into working lands. The NFLT consortium of partners provides a wealth of knowledge and experience in the S2G project area and will bring a combination of land protection and land management programs to S2G project area landowners.

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation's mission is to serve as "one voice advocating for viable farm families and enriching the quality of life for all Floridians." The RCPP project objectives directly align with what our organization stands for as they support less-than-fee acquisitions, either perpetual, or for a specific term of years, as long as they are voluntary, incentive-based and allow for the continued economically viable use of the property for agriculture. In addition, state land conservation programs that focus on less-than-fee acquisitions offer the state, the conservation community and the landowner a win-win situation.

We strongly support this collaborative effort as we believe this RCPP proposal will advance much needed conservation work in the S2G project area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeb S. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeb S. Smith
President