

[on letterhead of public entity]

[insert date]

Mr. Adam R. Snyder
Manager, Conservation Campaigns
The Nature Conservancy
120 19th Street North, #200
Birmingham, AL 35203

Mr. Will Abberger
Director, Conservation Finance
The Trust for Public Land
306 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Snyder and Mr. Abberger:

By this letter, Alachua County officially requests technical advice and assistance from The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land in connection with our efforts to develop and levy one or more discretionary sales surtaxes pursuant to section 212.055, Florida Statutes. As we have discussed with you, Alachua County has multiple priorities that it may wish to fund, in whole or in part, with a discretionary sales surtax, including the following:

1. Continued funding the County's Wild Spaces Public Places Program that is currently funded by a 0.5% local government infrastructure surtax levied pursuant to section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes, and is currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2024;
2. New source of funding for the new Alachua County Affordable Housing Trust Fund created pursuant to Alachua County Charter Review Commission Resolution 2020-14, which was approved by referendum during the November 2020 General Election;
3. New source of funding for the construction, maintenance and repair of County roads;
4. New source of funding for the design, procurement, installation and construction of a new County owned and operated broadband internet system that will provide affordable internet service to unserved and underserved areas of Alachua County; and
5. New source of funding for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of public facilities, included any related land acquisition, land improvement, design, engineering costs, and all other professional and related costs required to bring the public facilities into service (*e.g.*, fire stations; general governmental office buildings).

As part of your advice and assistance, I understand you will: (i) conduct research regarding requirements and limitations of section 212.055, Florida Statutes, as may be amended¹ prior to the adoption of a proposed surtax, (ii) conduct public opinion research regarding the support and opposition of Alachua County residents to the proposed surtax options listed above; and (iii) develop recommendations for the Board

¹ Please note that section 212.055, Florida Statutes, is already subject to two amendments; one that will go into effect on July 1, 2021 and another that is scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2022.

of County Commissioners on strategies for supporting the proposed surtaxes listed above.

We are interested not only in the factual information that you can provide, but also your opinions and recommendations on public funding measures available to us and strategies to enact such measures. That would include understanding the public's priorities and attitudes concerning the proposed surtaxes and programs listed above and how the public would respond to different methods of presenting those issues. This request will continue in effect for any advice you offer or presentations you submit related to such matters. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to request that you continue to be available to provide technical advice and assistance in these areas and on related matters in the future.

Please be advised that records that you provide to the County, whether electronically or in writing, will constitute public records as a matter of law. This request does not in any way commit public funds to the efforts of The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land related to this request, nor does it require public disclosure of any confidential information of either organization. If The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Lands agree to provide these services to the County, it is understood that the County and The Trust for Public Land will enter into a professional services agreement, which will address any compensation to be provided by the County for such services; however, it is also our understanding that: (i) any public opinion polling will not be included within the scope of said professional services agreement because said polling, if any, will not be paid for with County funds; and (ii) The Nature Conservancy will not require a written agreement with the County because it will not request or require compensation from the County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Cornell, Chair
Board of County Commissioners