



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Charles S. Chestnut IV, *Chair*
Robert Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*
Mike Byerly
Ken Cornell
Marihelen Wheeler

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

August 13, 2019

Mayor Lauren Poe
City of Gainesville
P.O. Box 490
Station 19
Gainesville, Florida 32627-0490

RE: Protecting the Santa Fe River

Dear Mayor Poe:

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, I am asking the Gainesville City Commission to financially support Alachua County's efforts to protect the Santa Fe River watershed from a proposed phosphate mine in Bradford and Union Counties. Our goal is to avoid mining impacts to local water, air, and natural resources, including the City of Gainesville's drinking water supply.

In defense of this watershed, on July 9, 2019 we authorized initial expenses of \$621,302 to pay an outside team of legal and environmental experts. At the County Commission's request, I am now asking the City Commission to support these efforts.

It is my understanding that the City Commission has previously discussed providing financial assistance for this purpose. I look forward to your follow up on this important environmental partnership request.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr19.XX

CSC/jcb

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Department File