



**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
*"Dedicated to Quality Service"*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236  
phone: 941-861-5344 fax: 941-861-5987

January 26, 2016

Christine P. Johnson, President  
Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast  
P.O. Box 902  
Osprey, FL 34229

**RE: Orange Hammock Ranch Conservation**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

On behalf of the Sarasota County Commission, we are pleased to provide support for the permanent conservation of the entire 5,774 acre Orange Hammock Ranch property. Conserving Orange Hammock Ranch presents Sarasota County and the City of North Port with the significant opportunity to protect the quality and quantity of North Port's drinking water supply; help alleviate downstream flooding; protect irreplaceable habitat for a variety of wildlife; and provide recreational opportunities.

Protecting Orange Hammock Ranch has been a focus of conservation for almost twenty years. In 1988, the property was one of Sarasota County's original Protection Priority Sites because of its high ecological value. The Environmentally Sensitive Land Protection Oversight Committee (ESLOC) approved the acquisition of the property on October 7, 2010.

The Sarasota County Commission appreciates the long history of collaboration with Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast and asks that you please keep us informed on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alan Maio  
Chairman

c: Sarasota County Commission  
Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator  
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator  
Carolyn Brown, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources