



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

Dr. Rodney L. Clouser, Chair
Jordan Callaham, Vice Chair

August 29, 2024
Honorable Mary Alford, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Agricultural Land Protection Strategy

Dear Chair Alford,

At its meetings on February 20, May 21, and August 20, 2024, the Rural Concerns Advisory Committee (RCAC) received presentations and had discussions with Andi Christman, Land Conservation Program Manager, on the proposed Agricultural Land Protection Strategy for Alachua County; the Committee also discussed the topic at its July 16th meeting. This has been one of the most in-depth discussions of a single topic in the six years I have been a member of the Committee! We appreciate Ms. Christman's willingness to provide information and answer questions from the Committee.

Following discussion of the topic at its August 20th meeting, the RCAC unanimously (8-0) approved a motion for me to send this letter of support for the proposed Agricultural Land Protection Strategy. The Committee's questions and concerns regarding the strategy's long-term goals, ranking criteria, and public participation process have been adequately addressed and we believe the proposed Agricultural Land Protection Strategy has the potential to benefit the citizens of Alachua County by preserving agriculture lands in our community.

We thank you for considering the views and input of the Rural Concerns Advisory Committee on this matter.

Respectfully,

Rodney L. Clouser

Rodney L. Clouser PhD, Chair
Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

cc: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Andi Christman, Land Conservation Program Manager, Environmental Protection
Jeffrey L. Hays, Director, Growth Management
Ken McMurry, Senior Planner, Growth Management