

# CCNA

## COALITION OF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

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677 N Washington Blvd Ste 52 · Sarasota, FL 34236

April 20, 2021

Honorable Vern Buchanan  
2104 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RE: Sarasota's Bobby Jones Conservation and Watershed Protection**

Dear Congressman Buchanan:

This letter is in support of the current grant efforts in Sarasota to secure funding for a major wetlands restoration project on the city-owned Bobby Jones Municipal Golf property via (a) a **State and Tribal Assistance Grant** and (b) the **Clean Water SRF**.

Undoubtedly your office is aware of recent events that have (very unfortunately) marred the collective efforts of state, county and local governments along with conservation advocates to protect this important watershed and the waters of Sarasota Bay. We will not reiterate these circumstances again but proactively request your immediate attention and support of these new efforts, along with any alternative efforts from your office, to secure the funding necessary to protect this land and the watershed for future generations.

The planned reduction of the golf course property will facilitate restoration of the Little Camp Sawgrass Wetlands and is a key **Red Tide Mitigation Project**. Environmentally, it is designed to filter fertilizers and other nutrients and contaminants that feed Red Tide algae in the Gulf from 5,800 acres of the Phillipi Creek watershed. The planned storm water retention infrastructure will expand and stop flooding in adjacent neighborhoods.

Our organization, The Coalition of Neighborhood Associations of Sarasota, represents the neighborhood associations of the city of Sarasota including representation of the downtown condo associations. We are an umbrella organization that embraces a majority of the 57,000+ residents of the city. We seek your help to protect the natural assets of the city and county.

On behalf of the neighborhood residents of Sarasota we welcome and appreciate your active support and participation in this conservation imperative.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Executive Committee of CCNA**

*Lou Costa, Chairperson   Susan Stewart   Eileen Normile   Tony Smith   Dan DeLeo  
Charlie Nagelschmidt   Norm Dumaine   Richard Harris   Carl Shoffstall*