

BRIAN J. MAST  
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3026

171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE  
STUART, FLORIDA 34994  
(772) 403-0900

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0918

August 23, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
The State of Florida  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Alissa Lotane  
Director  
Florida Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street, M.S. 4  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mara Gambineri  
Chair  
Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC)  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Lynetta Usher Griner  
Vice Chair  
Griner Usher Land & Timber, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1819  
Chiefland, FL 32644

The Honorable Shawn Hamilton  
Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 144  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Bill Palmer, Ph.D.,  
President  
Tall Timbers Research Station & Land  
Conservancy  
13093 Henry Beadel Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

The Honorable George Warthen  
Chief Conservation Officer  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Elva Peppers  
President  
Florida Environmental and Land Services,  
Inc.  
221-4 Delta Court  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Honorable Rick Dolan,  
Director  
Florida Fire Service  
3125 Conner Boulevard, Room 228  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis and members of the ARC,

The communities around Jonathan Dickinson State Park are owed a public comment meeting in good faith with members of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC). It is the ARC that will actually vote on whether golf courses and hotels will be built in our park and the public deserves the ability to make their voice heard.

Currently, FDEP is proposing to hold an hour-long public comment period between 3 pm and 4 pm on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. This is absolutely ridiculous, especially as not one of the seven voting ARC members will be in attendance to engage with the public. We believe every voting

member of ARC must attend a public comment meeting before taking any action regarding the proposal.

It is also imperative that FDEP give the citizens of Palm Beach and Martin counties every opportunity to have their voices heard on the topic. An hour-long meeting on a weekday afternoon when most people are at work will not suffice. Instead, the communities of Martin and Palm Beach counties are prepared to offer ARC and FDEP venues that can accommodate significantly more people.

It is the expectation of the community, and the government officials signed onto this letter that all comments are heard, and questions be answered. We propose one meeting in Stuart and one in Jupiter, both for as long as it takes to hear all concerns.

Each community is free to organize the time and location of the meeting, but we believe that credibility is also being taken from this process by conducting this public comment in August when many citizens of our community are absent. We therefore encourage you to postpone any public comment or vote to move forward with the project until after Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast  
U.S. Representative



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



Gayle Harrell  
Florida Senator



John Snyder  
Florida Representative



Toby Overdorf  
Florida Representative