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Florida House of Representatives

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Representative, 24th District

Committees
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Family Law and Children
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March 27, 1997

RE: Request that Florida Public Service Commission grant Marion County's request for a hearing in Docket No. 960867-WU

TO THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

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It has come to my attention that Marion County has requested this Commission hold a hearing in Docket No. 960867-WU to determine the propriety of amending the water certificate of Windstream Utilities. Since 1992, Marion County has been working to protect the water resources of Marion County and to address the problem of the proliferation of small package plants and water only systems. Currently, over 500 of these package systems exist in Marion County. Marion County has developed and expanded considerable sums of money in adopting its 1992 Comprehensive Plan, the 1993 Master Plan, its Water Resource Game Plan, and the State Road 200 Master Water and Wastewater Plan in order to provide central water and wastewater service in the State Road 200 area.

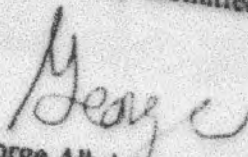
This is a matter of great public importance in Marion County and I ask that the Public Service Commission exercise its discretion to hold a hearing in Docket No. 960867-WU. The legislature has gone to great lengths to provide an extensive process requiring local governments to each prepare a comprehensive plan for development with extensive public participation, the approval of the local government, input of the Regional Planning Council, and final approval of the Department of Community Affairs. The comprehensive plan thus finally adopted is supposed to be the supreme guide and not even local governments can pass ordinances inconsistent therewith. If the Public Service Commission in this case does not hold a hearing, all of the community's time, effort and money spent on developing its comprehensive plan will be frustrated. I, as chairman of the Marion County Legislative Delegation, respectfully request that hearing be held in this matter so that the Commission may take into

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE
03330 APR-15
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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consideration the County's need to develop its Comprehensive Plan and its Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Program.

Respectfully submitted,



George Albright
Representative, District 24
Chairman, Marion County Delegation