

January 31, 2007

The Honorable. . .

Tallahassee

Dear Governor Crist

The 2007 Legislative Session will begin in just a few short weeks. We offer our support as you prepare for this session and for the decisions you will make on how to address the most pressing issues facing the state.

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) has an objective to further the education of its members and the public in the fields of environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources and to instill a respect for and protection of the environment. Regarding water as a natural resource, in 2005 we urged the legislature to put environmental and water resource protection on the same level of importance as new growth and economic development. During that session, new growth management legislation was passed that will address some of our concern. We thank you for taking that step.

During the past two years, we have continued our investigations into water issues by sponsoring seminars and conferences throughout the state. We have engaged government, academia, environmental groups, other non-profit service organizations, business and our fellow community members in dialog and learning about water. These investigations have affirmed our position regarding the need for careful development of alternative water supplies and serious protection of natural systems. Enclosed is a Resolution regarding changes to Chapter 187, Florida Statutes, State Comprehensive Plan and Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, The Florida Water Resources Act.

We thank you for considering our Resolution. We applaud you in advance for the efforts you will make to ensure that our valuable water resources are restored and protected as Florida continues to grow. If you have questions or need additional information regarding this Resolution, please contact us through FFGC Headquarters. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in accomplishing our common goals.

Sincerely,

Joan Ochs
FFGC President

Marion Hilliard
FFGC Government Agency Liaison

Phyllis Wood
FFGC Parliamentarian

Laura Mock
FFGC Legislative Chairman

Pat Carver
FFGC Water and Wetlands Chairman

Judy Greenberg
FFGC District V Director