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SYFRETT FEED CO., INC
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July 12, 2006

Doug Coward, Chairman
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

RE: Rural Lands Stewardship Program

Dear Chairman Coward:

On behalf of Syfrett Feed Company, Inc. I am writing to express our support of the Adams Ranch Stewardship Program being proposed in St. Lucie County.

Our family owned business is Syfrett Feed Company, Inc. which is located in Okeechobee County. We have been in existence since 1956. We sell bulk custom cattle feed to many other small businesses, including dairies and ranches in the surrounding south Florida area. It has been and is currently our main source of income. We have been striving to keep it a small family owned business by expanding into exporting feeds and meeting the smaller beef cattle producers' needs. By doing this we have continued to keep up our production. What is hurting our production are the dairies and beef cattle ranches that are selling their land to developers for housing communities.

I think that the Rural Lands Stewardship program is a great idea. It will promote agriculture for St. Lucie County and impact the surrounding area. The cattle industry is shrinking in Florida, and we as a small agricultural business need it to stay at the current level. I understand that growing agriculture in Florida may be a lost cause, but keeping the rural character and preserving the past is a good asset. The current farmers and land owners need help to keep the agricultural economy strong. By doing this we will be helping to protect the land and open space while keeping it on the tax rolls and preventing more environmental issues from occurring.

Thank you for helping to preserve rural lands and providing a way for the Adams family to continue their cattle ranching operations and stewarding their land for future generations.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles B. Syfrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".
Charles B. Syfrett
Syfrett Feed Company, Inc.

Cc: Commissioner Chris Craft
Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson
Commissioner Paula Lewis
Commissioner Joseph Smith