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*National Scenic Byway*

*Corridor Management Entity*

**Byway Program Administrator**

Sallie O'Hara

March 4, 2007

Honorable Ben Rich

Chairman of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

4020 Lewis Speedway

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Dear Chairman Rich:

The Friends of A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway, Inc. strongly support the county purchase of the Vilano Beach property where Fiddlers Green now is situated. A "yes" vote on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Florida Communities Trust grant will allow a significant return on the county's matching fund investment. Oversight and maintenance of the property are incorporated into management and corridor plans collaboratively prepared by citizen advocates for scenic and environmental preservation. Improvements for recreational and cultural elements along the National Scenic Byway, of which A1A at Vilano Beach is a part, will benefit both traveler and county resident in the long term in preserving and conserving "Old Florida."

The Friends of A1A want to mutually support the county's efforts at managing growth in a positive and proactive manner. In limiting developer investments in this prime beachfront land, the county will preserve and control beach access and parking, while protecting the viewshed and intrinsic resources of the area. We urge you not to miss this long-term opportunity in lieu of short-term issues.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jenness

Vice Chairman

Friends of A1A



cc: Charles Helm, President

Sallie O'Hara, Byway Program Administrator