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Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, Inc.

A Citizen Support Organization (CSO) dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Wakulla Springs State Park
465 Wakulla Park Drive, Wakulla Springs, FL. 32327-0390

Wakulla County Planning Commission
and County Commission

February 3, 2022

Re: SW GA Oil FLUM Amendment

Dear Wakulla County Planning Commission:

The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park was recently made aware of a truly grave threat to Wakulla Springs resulting from the proposed rezoning of the northwest corner of Hwy 319 and 267 to permit a gas station to be established on the site. In an effort to gain additional information, the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park (FOWS) recently invited expert cave diver Casey McKinlay (Director of WKPP) to provide a presentation of the Chip's Hole Cave System at our monthly Board meeting on January 5th. Casey's presentation and results are also available on our website: <https://wakullasprings.org/wakulla-springs-news-events>.

A few summary findings from Casey, among other experts, point to the extreme vulnerability of the cave system located at the Hwy 319 and 267 intersection. The Chip's Hole Cave System is in an area (please refer to attached site map) located just 100 feet below the ground surface in one of the shallower sections of the entire cave system. In addition, the site is composed of very sandy soil, with high permeability. Even if the gas station was not placed directly over the cave, toxins from small daily spills and car wash runoff could easily spread laterally, leaching into the aquifer and causing serious harm to the ecosystems at Wakulla Springs, approximately one week later. At worst, storage tank malfunctions (which are not uncommon) could inflict catastrophic and irreparable harm to Wakulla Spring.

We are unified in supporting the efforts of the Wakulla Springs Alliance in bringing awareness to this issue and to ensure the protection of this highly sensitive parcel of land. Wakulla Springs is a unique national destination that brings thousands of visitors annually to Tallahassee and Wakulla County. It is too precious a resource to contaminate.

Sincerely,



Julie Harrington, Ph.D.

President, Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, Inc.

465 Wakulla Park Drive ~ Wakulla Springs, FL 32327-0390
Telephone (850) 561-7276 Website: www.wakullasprings.org

A contribution to the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park Endowment fund is a gift that keeps on giving. Contact the Community Foundation of North Florida (850) 222-2899 - www.cfnf.org to care for Wakulla Springs State Park forever.

Cc.

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