



## FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Post Office Box 5007  
Gainesville, FL 32627-5007

June 18, 2026

Governor Ron DeSantis  
The Florida Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

**SUBJECT: Please Veto Back-of-the-Bill Provisions Redirecting Land Conservation Funds**

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Your administration has presided over many important decisions to protect natural areas in Florida. The Florida Native Plant Society thanks you for those decisions. You now have an opportunity to correct a serious misstep by the Florida Legislature. We ask you to veto the back-of-the-bill provisions they inserted into the budget that would redirect funds originally dedicated to protecting land in the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Corridor).

The veto we are recommending would restore funding sufficient to protect thousands of additional acres of sensitive natural areas. It would also help ensure that decision-making about the lands Florida chooses to conserve will continue to be rooted in science rather than politics and restore balance to a funding formula that places the protection of agricultural lands above protection of the most significant unprotected natural lands remaining in Florida.

The budget crafted by the Legislature rightfully proposes to direct \$200 million to the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFL), which purchases easements that protect agricultural land from development and sustain agriculture's contribution to our economy. Unfortunately, the Legislature also chose to shortchange Florida Forever by refusing to budget any new funding for the program. The sensitive natural areas protected by Florida Forever are no less important to Florida's future, and no less vulnerable to being lost forever to development.

Please restore some necessary balance to Florida's investments in land protection. Veto the back-of-the-bill budget provisions so those funds will still be available for conserving natural areas in the Corridor and providing places where Floridians can enjoy nature. RFL will still be funded generously, and the other expenditures proposed by the offending provisions can still be considered in the future on the basis of merit and a consensus that includes public input.

Respectfully,

Eugene M. Kelly, President  
Florida Native Plant Society

cc: Travis Moore, Government Affairs Advisor

*Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida*

---