

1. **REQUESTED MOTION:**

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt a resolution supporting "no reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products" as recommended by the Horizon Council.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: The Citrus Industry in Florida is an integral part of Florida's economy within the Citrus Industry and many affiliated businesses.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Supports the Florida Citrus industry.

2. **DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:**

COMMISSION DISTRICT #:

CIB

3. **MEETING DATE:**

06-10-2003

4. **AGENDA:**

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE
- APPEALS
- PUBLIC
- WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

5. **REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:**
(Specify)

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

6. **REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:**

- A. COMMISSIONER
- B. DEPARTMENT Economic Development
- C. DIVISION
- BY: Regina Smith, Executive Director

Regina Smith

7. **BACKGROUND:**

Because current actions by the United States Trade Representative are moving towards removal of the citrus tariff, the Horizon Council, at its May 16, 2003 General Membership meeting unanimously voted to recommend that the BOCC also adopt a resolution in support of "no reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products."

The citrus industry employs approximately 90,000 people and contributes over \$9 billion to the Florida economy.

8. **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Management recommends approval.

9. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:**

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services <i>Wm 5/28/03</i>				G County Manager
					OA	OM	Risk	GC	
<i>RS</i>				<i>Approved 5/27/03</i>	<i>GA 5/27/03</i>	<i>JS 5/27/03</i>	<i>JS 5/27/03</i>	<i>RY 5/27/03</i>	<i>DDS 5-29-03</i>

10. **COMMISSION ACTION:**

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
Date: 5-23-03
Time: 4:00
Forwarded To:
Adm. & Adm. →
5-27-03

CA
5/27 9:30
5/29 10:00
DS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Florida citrus has been an integral part of the State of Florida since its existence, and the preservation of this industry not only affects Florida's citrus growers, but many affiliated businesses and local government entities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida and Brazil produce over 90% of all processed orange product in the world and loss of Florida production would result in a monopoly for the Brazilian citrus industry; and

WHEREAS, lowering of citrus tariffs does not create the benefits of "Free Trade" because it neither increases competition, reduces consumer prices, nor results in increased trade; and

WHEREAS, it is a proven fact that the unsubsidized Florida citrus industry employs approximately 90,000 people and has an economic impact to our state of \$9.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Florida citrus growers have worked diligently over the years in all international trade negotiations, and now with the World Trade Organization and Free Trade Area of the Americas to retain the citrus tariff on processed citrus products entering the United States to enable Florida to compete on a level playing field with Brazil; and

WHEREAS, it is clearly demonstrated that any material reduction in processed citrus tariff schedules will have a devastating result on the citrus industry as it exists today in Florida with accompanying catastrophic effects upon the 800,000 acres of

citrus that provide numerous environmental benefits to the community and the state, and;

WHEREAS, Lee County, with about 12,000 acres of citrus is located within Florida's Gulf Citrus Production Region which produces nearly 25% of the "Sunshine State's citrus crop; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of tariff reductions will severely and economically damage the entire region of Southwest Florida; include Lee County which benefits from the outlying rural areas as the region's commercial hub; and

WHEREAS, there is nowhere in the world, other than Brazil, where land and climatic conditions permit processed orange juice production in quantities sufficient to compensate for losses in Florida productions, and;

WHEREAS, Florida citrus growers require few services but provide employment, tax revenue, economic stability, water recharge, aesthetic beauty, and a way of life that has existed for more than one hundred years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA that:

1. Lee County supports "no reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products."
2. A copy of the Resolution shall be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting and copies sent to the Governor and the Lee County Legislative and Congressional Delegations.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and being put to vote, the vote was as follows:

BOB JANES _____
DOUGLAS ST. CERNY _____
RAY JUDAH _____
ANDREW COY _____
JOHN ALBION _____

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2003.

ATTEST: CHARLIE GREEN
CLERK OF COURTS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: _____
Office of the County Attorney

