

R-03-142

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA CITRUS
GROWERS BY GOING ON RECORD OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE
TARIFF ON IMPORTED CITRUS JUICE.**

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 State; and

WHEREAS, there is nowhere in the world, other than Brazil, with land and climatic conditions which permit processed orange juice production in quantities sufficient to compensate for losses in Florida production; 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 Manatee County, Florida, that:

Section 1. Manatee County supports "no reduction in the current United States tariff on imported citrus products".

Section 2. The Manatee County Board of County Commissioners requests that other County Commissions support this Resolution and to so notify the Governor and their Legislative and Congressional delegations accordingly.

Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be entered within the Minutes of this meeting and copies sent to the Governor, the Manatee County Legislative and Congressional delegations.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this the 3rd day of June, 2003.

ATTEST: R. B. Shore
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: *Susan Romine* *d.c.*

By: *[Signature]*
Jonathan R. Bruce, Chairman

