



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR JIM BOYD

20th District

August 21, 2023

The Honorable John Chappie
City of Bradenton Beach
107 Gulf Drive North
Bradenton Beach, FL 34217

The Honorable Dan Murphy
City of Anna Maria
P.O. Box 779
Anna Maria, FL 34216

The Honorable Judy Titsworth
City of Holmes Beach
5801 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217

Via email at: mayor@cityofbradentonbeach.com; ammayor@cityofannamaria.com;
hbmayor@holmesbeachfl.org

Dear Mayors Chappie, Murphy and Titsworth:

On January 12, 2023, the Manatee Legislative Delegation (the "Delegation"), unanimously approved [5-0] the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to study and present a report to the Delegation to focus on the potential benefits of combining the three municipalities of Anna Maria Island, which encompasses the cities of Anna Maria, Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach. The letter was sent to OPAGGA on January 19, 2023; please see letter enclosed herewith. As we subsequently discussed, OPPAGA analysis has been used many times in Florida to present options for consideration by the legislature. For example, an OPPAGA study was recently completed and looked at the options regarding Longboat Key and whether Longboat Key should remain split between 2 counties. To date, no action has been taken.

We met with you on January 30, 2023, at which time you requested the OPPAGA study be tabled to allow you time to develop coordination ideas and come back to the Delegation with

REPLY TO:

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KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

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implementable concepts. Better coordination in a number of areas [policing, building department, public works, etc.] will help your cities become more efficient with taxpayer resources to help lower taxes, especially given the explosion in taxable values on Anna Maria Island.

We tabled the OPPAGA study in good faith to allow you the time to find better ways of coordination and present such to the Delegation. Unfortunately, we have not received any major update so far. We understand the Mayor of Holmes Beach does not want to participate in the coordination talks, given it will be seen as a first step toward consolidation of the three island cities. Please be assured that the Delegation [and the authors of this letter] have not made a decision on consolidation or de-annexation while we await your response. We would like to receive your response prior to our Delegation meeting, currently scheduled for October 5, 2023. Should we not hear back from you before the Delegation meeting, we will move forward with our request to OPAGGA.

We thank you for your continued efforts to find ways to lower taxes in your communities. We would note that the state of Florida, in our last budget, passed the largest tax cut in the history of the state, so we personally know it can be done with hard work and sharpening of your pencils.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

Sincerely,


Jim Boyd


Will Robinson

cc: Attachment