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May 12, 2021

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

Re: Opposition to CS/HB 403

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I write this letter in my individual capacity as Mayor of the Town of Indian River Shores to voice my strong opposition to CS/HB 403.

The bill is an unwarranted erosion of Home Rule zoning powers. Local governments and their elected officials will no longer be able to protect the character of residential areas as desired by local constituents. Specifically, CS/HB 403 strips local governments of the ability to enact commonsense home based business zoning regulations. As written, the bill dismantles the protection of local zoning laws in preserving the peace and quiet enjoyment of purely residential areas *unless* there is an existing homeowners association with private restrictions.

While pro small business legislation is a laudable goal, in this instance the harm to neighborhood character greatly outweighs the benefit to home based business. Certainly a less sweeping, more surgical approach to protect home based business can be deferred until next session when more thoughtful approaches can be considered.

Thus, I respectfully request that you veto CS/HB 403.

Respectfully,

/s/ Brian Foley

Brian Foley, Mayor
Indian River Shores