



## Our Santa Fe River, Inc.

2070 SW CR 138  
Fort White, FL 32038  
Phone: 386-243-0322

July 23, 2018

James Selph, Chair  
DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners  
201 East Oak Street, Suite 201  
Arcadia, FL 34266

Dear Chairman Selph,

The mission of Our Santa Fe River, Inc. is to promote education about, stewardship of and advocacy for the Santa Fe River and its springs and tributaries and, by extension, all of the waters bearing on and supporting the Floridan aquifer. We are concerned that statewide water resources are maximally stressed, and water issues anywhere in Florida are indeed water issues everywhere in Florida.

We understand that this week you are entertaining a request by Mosaic for a rezoning of agricultural to mining lands. We have seen the narrative that this does not necessarily predetermine the existence of a phosphate mine in DeSoto County, and thus detriments of that deadly industry should not be considered. We deem these thoughts to be mere wordplay and urge you to realistically consider the likely outcome of a positive vote for rezoning.

You don't have to look very far north to see the kind of destruction and disease that Mosaic has left in its wake. Florida has thrived on tourism and the invitation of the masses to enjoy the beautiful land and seascapes that the state has to offer and recreation in her pristine springs and waterways. Mining for phosphate and tourism do not mix. Even Mosaic acknowledges the radioactivity and pollution of their effluent and promises to contain such waters so that they don't pollute the waterways, but the accumulation of "oops" moments has contributed to waterway closings and a record of public health issues that cannot be overlooked.

You are elected to protect your citizens - we do not see how, with that as your charge, you could justify allowing such a toxic industry into your county. Accordingly, we urge you to consider these consequences and deny the application for rezoning.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Roth, President  
Our Santa Fe River, Inc.  
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