

A RESOLUTION OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO OPPOSE PROPOSAL
TO CLOSE FOREST CAPITAL MUSEUM STATE PARK AND TO RETURN
THE PROPERTY TO TAYLOR COUNTY

WHEREAS, it has been reported that in order to reduce the Florida Division of Recreation and Park's statewide expenditures by 10 percent, a spending reduction plan was developed which includes among other measures, a decision to no longer support Forest Capital Museum State Park and to return the said property to Taylor County; and

WHEREAS, Taylor County has been recognized and designated by the Governor as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, struggling to maintain basic governmental services, and

WHEREAS, the Parks of Florida should consist not only of white sandy beaches, rivers, and trails but also of living reminders of Florida's cultural heritage and forest, and

WHEREAS, the importance of forestry in Florida dates back to the early 1800s and Taylor County being recognized as the unchallenged "Tree Capital of the South" and its forestlands are considered a critical part of Florida's past, present, and future, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Capital Museum State Park has on the Museum grounds one of the few remaining authentic Cracker homesteads and a majestic canopy of 50-plus-year-old longleaf pines with beautiful walking trails much like the Florida of the turn of the Century, and

WHEREAS, Taylor County and other counties designated as Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern are struggling even more than other areas of the State with the uncertainties of today's economy it is ironic that smaller museums and tourist centers are being closed.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida, does in regular session tender this resolution opposing the proposal to close Forest Capital Museum State Park and returning the property to Taylor County.

PASSED in regular session this 16th day of December 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Rudolph Parker
RUDOLPH PARKER, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Annie Mae Murphy
ANNIE MAE MURPHY, CLERK