



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

May 8, 2013

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Office of Governor Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Florida, I am encouraging you to approve the \$50 million dollar appropriation for the creation of the Coast to Coast Connector included in this year's budget. Enthusiastically supporting the establishment of this super-trail would be a very wise decision on your part, as it will provide a great boost to Florida's tourism, economy and the quality of life of our residents.

Approving this line item will make Florida home to a 275-mile-long path for bicyclists and pedestrians, providing for the creation of 72 new miles of trail to fill gaps between existing trails throughout Central, East-Central and West-Central Florida. The finished product will connect Florida's east and west coasts, from Canaveral National Seashore all the way to St. Petersburg, giving Floridians and visitors from all over the world the opportunity to connect firsthand with the wonders of nature while bicycling straight across our beautiful state.

The creation of similar trails in other states were shown to boost local economies, spurring the opening of shops, restaurants and other local businesses along the trails. It is easy to imagine business owners and entrepreneurs doing the same thing along areas of the Coast to Coast Connector.

The League echoes the sentiments of the *Tampa Tribune*, who in calling for you to approve this proposal, declared that the Coast to Coast Connector is "truly a project for the people." We hope that you will do what is right for our state and the people of Florida by approving this budget item and ushering in the creation of this super-trail.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Macnab
LWVF President