

RESOLUTION 98- 67

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE
CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION RECONSIDER THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 14 OF ARTICLE IV.

WHEREAS, St. Johns County has a significant agricultural industry, yielding a variety of crops totaling an estimated \$54 million in the 1997 season; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is the Potato Capital of Florida, harvesting 21,000 acres of potatoes in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution Revision Commission on January 26 approved a proposal to reduce the size of the Governor's Cabinet by eliminating, among other positions, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, this action would also eliminate the Commissioner of Agriculture as an elected official and eliminate the Commissioner of Agriculture's constitutional authority; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, the Constitution Revision Commission passed a proposed amendment to Section 14 of Article IV that would create a state board of agriculture appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, rather than being elected by the voting citizens of Florida, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services would be appointed by the state board of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the net effect of these proposed amendments to the Constitution is to remove the accountability of the Commission to 14.8 million Floridians and, instead, make the Commissioner accountable to seven appointees of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners asserts the adoption of these proposals would significantly diminish agriculture's voice and influence in local, state, national and international matters affecting the state's \$6 billion agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner also serves as the state's leading consumer advocate through the Division of Consumer Services, Floridians would no longer have a statewide elected voice in government working on their behalf on consumer issues

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that the Constitution Revision Commission reconsider this important issue and approve

a proposed amendment that would include an elected Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the Florida Cabinet.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10 day of March, 1998.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Moses A. Floyd
Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Cheryl Strickland
Deputy Clerk