



February 28, 2018

Kristie Erickson  
Manatee County Marine Resources  
Parks & Natural Resources Department  
5502 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Drive West  
Bradenton, FL 34209

**RE: Manatee County Borden Reef**

Dear Kristie:

The Coastal Conservation Association Florida (CCA FL) and our national habitat program, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), are in full support of the Borden reef site in Manatee County. CCA FL and BCT have committed \$25,000 towards the Borden reef site for the planned summer 2018 deployment.

Both CCA FL and BCT feel that adding to this natural limestone reef project will be beneficial to the residents of Manatee County, the local community and visitors alike. And like the first deployment on the Borden reef, this limestone will also provide much needed natural habitat in this transitional area, increased recreational fishing/diving, and will help relieve pressure on other reef sites. This natural limestone reef will create sustainable live-bottom habitat where none currently exists and will attract and sustain a wide range of fish, shrimp and crab species for decades. The deployment and use of artificial reefs by recreational fisherman and divers drives a variety of economic activities that result in significant economic benefit to the coastal communities in close proximity to the reefs.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Gidus, II".

Frank J. Gidus, II  
Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration

cc: Brian K. Gorski, Executive Director CCA Florida