DATE:

TO: The Honorable Alan Maio

 Vice Chair of the Sarasota County Commission

 District 4, Representative

RE: TST Ventures, LLC Recycling

Parcel IDs: 0237-05-0001, 0237-12-0002, 0237-05-0002

Dear Commissioner;

As a resident of the Laurel Lakes Community (aka Barton Farms Association) within District 2 and located on Iona Road and Palmer Blvd, I **oppose** any proposal being presented by Mr. James Gabbert of the TST Ventures, LLC. A request for a proposal for a Rezoning and Special Exception for Parcel ID No.'s 0237-05-0001, 0237-05-0002, & 0237-12-0002 to allow a Recycling Facility and Waste Transfer facility on the 16.2 acre is not acceptable.

Like most folks who live East and West of I-75 off Palmer Blvd., I believe the placement of the concrete crushing facility located between Porter Road and Apex Road Intersecting Palmer Blvd. is an inappropriate location. I also believe it will have a deleterious effect on the entire region around it if rezoning is approved for this specific location.

Let us remember the following about the area which is being proposed for rezoning and consider the impact to its closest “neighbor” -- ***The Celery Fields***! About the Celery Fields, I present this quoted piece from the website of the Audubon Society of Sarasota:

“The location of the site, the large number of diverse bird species, and its public ownership by Sarasota County make the Celery Fields an ideal location for wildlife watching and passive recreational use. The 360+ acre site is also the County’s primary storm water collection zone, allowing it to serve a dual purpose of public safety and recreation.”

The underscored words in the quote above highlight some of the reasoning as to why this proposal should never be approved. As part of Celery Fields, there is a nature center which is manned by the Audubon Society of Sarasota and gives tours to visitors and guests visiting us (Sarasota) from throughout the U.S and world to enjoy taking pictures of the native and migrating seasonal birds and unique flora that is so beautiful to this area. I can only imagine what the sound of dump trucks, of all sizes, will bring to such a pristine area for wildlife, nature and hikers. Wildlife, especially birds, do not adjust to vibration or certain noise levels. The result is that the birds will change their flight patterns and breading areas.

In addition to the impact on nature and the Celery Fields environment, I am also concerned about the dust created from the concrete crushing and its impact on human health issues, such as asthma and other respiratory problems, as well as the impact on the Quality of Life within the home environment and the future value of our homes. The Palmer Blvd. area, as you are well aware, is a prime residential area today with significant growth being projected for the future.

Sarasota County is an area with considerable amounts of underdeveloped land. So, I must ask, why is it that the concrete crushing facility is being considered in an area that has been so carefully carved out as a nature preserve as well as planned and zoned for a significant number of residential communities along the Palmer Blvd corridor?

Please consider the negative impact of this rezoning application on the area and recognize that the gain from sale of the parcel by the county will not offset the very clear costs to the community.

Sincerely;

Place Your Sarasota Address in this location