



The Florida House Institute

For Sustainable Development

April 17, 2006

Dr. Margaret Lowman
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies
New College of Florida
5700 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota FL 34243

Re: Base Camp Sarasota

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Florida House Institute for Sustainable Development (FHI), I would like to state our continued support for the Base Camp Sarasota initiative as well as our commitment to its fruition. We fully support this initiative as essential to better understand both our natural ecology and its relationship to the built environment. In addition, the FHI will continue to play a facilitation role for the planning, design, and implementation of the Base Camp Sarasota site with the following objectives in mind:

- Create a world class field research and education center for better understanding the ecology of the natural systems indicative of the southeastern United States and Sarasota County which could also serve as a model for tropical countries.
- To the extent practicable, assure that built systems associated with the research and education center are a demonstration of a light ecological footprint on the landscape through strategies such as green building practices, Sarasota School of Architecture principles, and life cycle balance considerations.
- Provide advice on best practices for community education and outreach including: the general public, K-12, community colleges, undergraduate and graduate students, political leaders and economic partners.
- Promote economic development opportunities through application of natural system processes and adaptations to built system designs (i.e. biomimicry, Land Use Institute).

It has been an honor to be part of a partnership of local, state, and national institutions on this very important initiative.

Very Truly Yours,

Stephen M. Suau, President
Florida House Institute for Sustainable Development

Cc: FHI Board of Directors