



May 29, 2024

RE: City of Jacksonville's (COJ) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application - Northeast Florida's Electric Vehicle Overhaul and Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Northeast Florida Electric Vehicle Overhaul and Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) project. This proposal will directly address the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) in the region. A recent GHG inventory indicated that the transportation section represents 40% of total emissions. The next highest sector (industry) produces 47% less emissions than transportation. As a result, it is prudent and an essential strategy for the region to prioritize and address the reduction of vehicle and transit emissions.

As a nonprofit organization that represents much of Northeast Florida, we are acutely aware of the impacts that climate change is having on the St. Johns River, the region's environment, and the communities that benefit from these resources. In addition, climate change is disproportionately impacting marginalized and disadvantaged communities, compounding the threats challenges they are already confronting. The E-VOLT project prioritizes the needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities by ensuring they have access to improved public transportation options and the associated health and economic benefits.

We urge the EPA to support the Northeast Florida E-VOLT project by providing the funding to catalyze the transition to electric and low-emission transit in Northeast Florida.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Orth", written in a cursive style.

Jimmy Orth
Executive Director
St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Inc.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER is a 501(c)(3) non-profit advocacy organization for the St. Johns River and its watershed. Our mission is to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection.