

ITEM #30-B

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
Public Hearing

MARCH 3, 2026

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

From: Heidi Mehaffey <Heidi@EarthEsquire.law>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:41 AM
To: Geller, Steve <SGELLER@broward.org>
Cc: Meyers, Andrew <AMEYERS@broward.org>; Kelleher, Kevin <KKELLEHER@broward.org>
Subject: 3/3 Agenda Item 30 (26-049) - INCLUDE IN PUBLIC RECORD AND READ INTO RECORD AT COMMISSIONER MEETING
Importance: High

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Dear Commissioner Geller,

I urge you to vote NO on the Motion to Enact an Ordinance that would alter the Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) Map of the Natural Resources Map Series to allow a developer to move forward with the planned construction of a warehouse.

Once we remove these protections it is a slippery slope that will cause the continued degradation of the minute remains of ESL in Broward County at the *extreme* detriment to the residents and our wildlife. I am a Broward County resident for 36 years and an environmental attorney for more than 10 years. You must heed the advice of County Staff and align with the public at large that you have been elected to represent, rather than that of a single developer looking to make a profit:

"Due to concerns regarding sea level rise, stormwater management and the protection of natural resources, including wetlands and mangroves, consistent with several Broward County Land Use Plan Policies, Planning Council staff is unable to support the proposed amendment to remove approximately 3.5 acres of the overall 21.0-acre ESL Site 97 / Map Label 136 from the Natural Resource Map Series Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map."

It is clear that such an ordinance would be in direct conflict with the Broward County Comprehensive Plan under Florida law. Once ESL land has been removed from protections it is gone forever. There are countless empty parcels of commercial land that can be converted into warehouse uses without giving up our unique landscape and the developer must look to zoning and properties that are already set up with the proper infrastructure to support the requested proposal. As an elected official, you have a duty to consider all the detrimental impacts of this proposal, including destruction of irreplaceable protected Florida flora and fauna, and require the developer to look to other alternatives that are readily available without giving up Broward County ESL.

Respectfully,

Heidi Mehaffey, Esq.

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