

irreversible negative ecological consequences. Additional clarity is needed regarding contaminant removal and long-term monitoring.

## **2. Public Health and Water Security**

Residents rely heavily on clean groundwater for drinking water. There remains uncertainty about the safety and reliability of even treated wastewater entering the aquifer, and insufficient assurance has been provided to guarantee protection of public health.

## **3. Economic Consequences**

Baker County's economy depends on agriculture, natural resources, and outdoor recreation. Any degradation of water quality will negatively impact these sectors and impose long-term financial burdens on our community.

## **4. Uncertain Risk vs. Local Benefit**

Current information does not clearly demonstrate a direct benefit to Baker County that would justify the potential risks.

Once implemented, the consequences of this project may not be easily reversed. Given the magnitude of uncertainty, including the risks associated with long-distance transport infrastructure, and the potential for widespread impact, we believe it is not prudent to proceed with the project in its current form.

For these reasons, the Baker County Board of County Commissioners strongly opposes the Water First North Florida Project. We respectfully urge the Suwannee River Water Management District and all relevant agencies to reconsider this proposal and pursue alternative solutions that prioritize the long-term protection of our water resources and communities.

Sincerely,

Ronald Mann, Chair  
District 1, County Commissioner

Oliver J. Anderson  
District 2

Tyler Mobley  
District 3

Blake Iverson  
District 4

Mark Hartley  
District 5