



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Will Robinson

District 71

District Office:

Suite 305
1051 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205-7804
(941) 242-8430

Tallahassee Office:

303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 717-5071

April 10, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my support for TCI Preservation Foundation Inc. and its efforts to preserve historic community spaces on Terra Ceia Island. The historic Village Improvement Association (VIA) Hall represents a significant part of Florida's cultural and civic history. As the home of one of the state's oldest continuously operating women's civic organizations, the building has served as a gathering place for generations of residents.

The proposed project to stabilize and preserve this structure addresses a critical need and will help ensure the building remains a vital community asset for years to come.

In addition, the Foundation's efforts to support preservation of the Terra Ceia community dock further demonstrate a commitment to maintaining shared public spaces that are essential to the community.

Preserving these historic resources strengthens the community and protects the unique heritage of Terra Ceia Island. I fully support TCI Preservation Foundation Inc. in its efforts to secure funding for this important project.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Robinson".

Will Robinson
State Representative, District 71

Committee Assignments

State Affairs Committee (Chair), Budget Committee, Health & Human Services Committee, Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting



Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association, Inc

1505 Center Rd./PO BOX 4

Terra Ceia, Florida 34250

board@terraceiavia.com

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association, Inc (VIA), I am pleased to offer support for the efforts of Terra Ceia Island Preservation Foundation to seek grant funding for preservation improvements to the historic Village Improvement Association Hall located on Terra Ceia Island.

The VIA Hall has long served as an important gathering place for the community and has hosted meetings, civic functions, celebrations, educational activities, and public events for generations. It remains a valued landmark and an important part of the history and character of Terra Ceia Island.

The proposed project to stabilize and preserve the building's foundation is an important step in protecting the long-term future of the hall. Ensuring that this historic structure remains safe and functional will benefit both current residents and future generations.

The VIA appreciates efforts that help preserve this important community asset and supports pursuing outside funding opportunities that may assist with necessary repairs and preservation work.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Bob Zonies
President

Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association, Inc

PO Box 203
Terra Ceia, Florida 34250

June 15, 2026

Historic Preservation Grants Program
Division of Historical Resources
RA Gray Building, 4th Floor
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

This letter is in support of the application of Terra Ceia Island Preservation, Inc. for the replacement of the foundation under the Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association Hall built in 1906.

The Hall is one of a handful of historic buildings original to the period of Terra Ceia's agricultural significance from 1885 to 1929. During this time, when the railroad ran a spur line to the island for the transfer of agricultural products to northern markets, the island was well known throughout the country. Flowers grown on the island were used in United States presidential celebrations and citrus was sold in New York markets.

The members of the Village Improvement Association, at that time only women, who built the Hall were proud of their home but knew that it would take hard work and dedication to keep the island's culture thriving as the boom brought new residents and visitors to the area. They built the Hall intending for it to be a community gathering place for education, entertainment and celebration.

Today, despite economic downfalls, weather and time, the Hall remains open for those same reasons. It also stands to inspire others to remember the past and to protect and preserve it. It is hoped that the work on the Hall will encourage other owners of the historic buildings on the island to restore and save their own properties.

I support this application and request that staff and the members of the review committee support it as well. It will not only make a difference to the residents and visitors of Terra Ceia Island, but to those of us who live in Manatee County and all of the west coast of Florida.

Sincerely,



Cathy Slusser
Retired, Director of Historical Resources, Manatee County and Terra Ceia Island resident

PO Box 195
Terra Ceia Island, FL 34250
June 17, 2026

Historic Preservation Grants Program
Division of Historical Resources
RA Gray Building, 4th Floor
500 S Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Grant to support preserving the Terra Ceia Island Village Association (VIA) Hall

To Whom it May Concern:

I have lived on Terra Ceia Island for more than 30 years and I've been a member of the Terra Ceia VIA for all that time. I'm writing to ask for you to support the Terra Ceia Island Village Association's grant application to replace the failing foundation of our island's cherished hall. The VIA hall has been a mainstay for this historic community since it was built in 1906. As the oldest women's club in Florida, it has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2003.

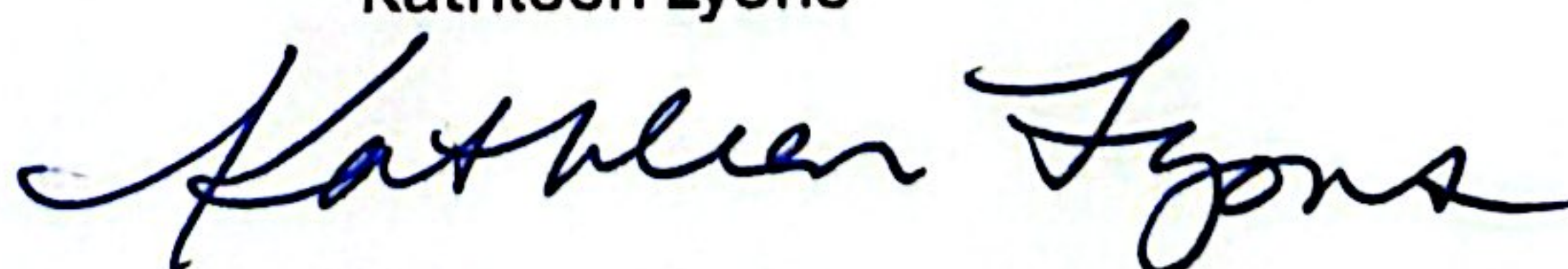
The VIA Hall is the heart of our island community. Over time it has been a one-room schoolhouse, a library and auditorium and a voting station. Currently, it is a thriving and vibrant place for community members to gather for monthly potluck dinners, bingo, holiday celebrations, yoga and the TCI Book Club. During the aftermath of 2024 Hurricanes Helene and Milton, it was at the hall that we gathered to help each other and regroup. It was at the hall that we provided food and support to our flooded neighbors.

Places like the VIA Hall and Terra Ceia Island are rare in a state that is getting new, generic-looking development every day. The Hall is part of "Old Florida." The VIA Hall is a living building from the past. It was built by some of our state's early pioneers. It is beautiful, but its foundation is crumbling.

"A Land Remembered," a novel by Patrick D. Smith, is a beloved fictional account of early Florida. It's being turned into a miniseries. The Terra Ceia VIA Hall could in that book! The Hall's property backs up to a pond that was once a camping site for native Americans. The island has a long history of native American settlements and pioneering. The Hall preserves that history. Let's preserve the hall!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Lyons

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent and the last name "Lyons" following in a similar style.

64 Sunset Lane
Terra Ceia, FL 34250

PO Box 265
Terra Ceia Island, FL 34250
June 16, 2026

Historic Preservation Grants Program
Division of Historical Resources
RA Gray Building, 4th Flr.
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Terra Ceia Island Preservation of the Historic Village Improvement Association Hall (VIA)

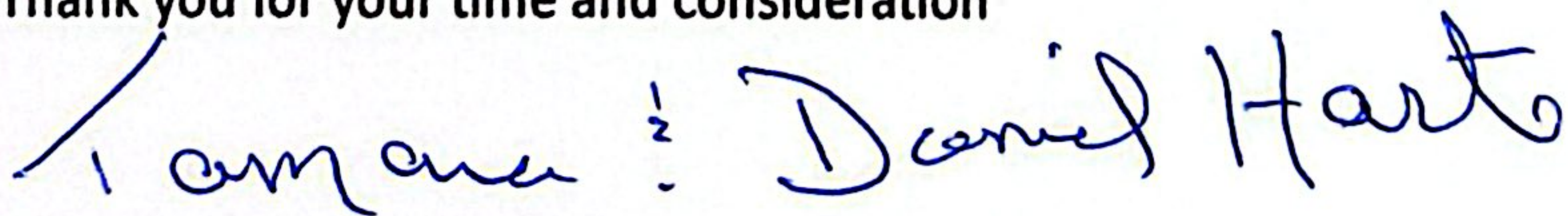
To Whom It May Concern

I would like to express my support for the preservation of the VIA Hall here on the Island of Terra Ceia, Florida. I am a second-generation resident and have been here on the Island for the last 10 years. In that time, I have seen the coordination of neighbors in their efforts to keep the VIA hall viable and maintained. As any Florida resident knows, we had a horrific 2024 Hurricane Season and this island experienced lots of storm damage. One of those structures was the VIA Hall.

This Hall has been a gathering place for socials, fundraisers, education and the like. It would be a worthy structure to grant funds for the preservation of this historic building for future generations of families to the Island along with its visitors.

I agree with Representative Will Robinson in saying "preserving these historic resources strengthens the community and protects the unique heritage of Terra Ceia Island". I want to voice my support along with all the other preservation fund neighbors in our effort to secure funding for this improvement project.

Thank you for your time and consideration

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamara & Daniel Harte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamara & Daniel Harte
Residents of Terra Ceia Island

THE ERNIE C. LISCH LAW FIRM, P.A.

3007 MANATEE AVENUE WEST
BRADENTON, FLORIDA 34205

TELEPHONE
(941) 748-8464

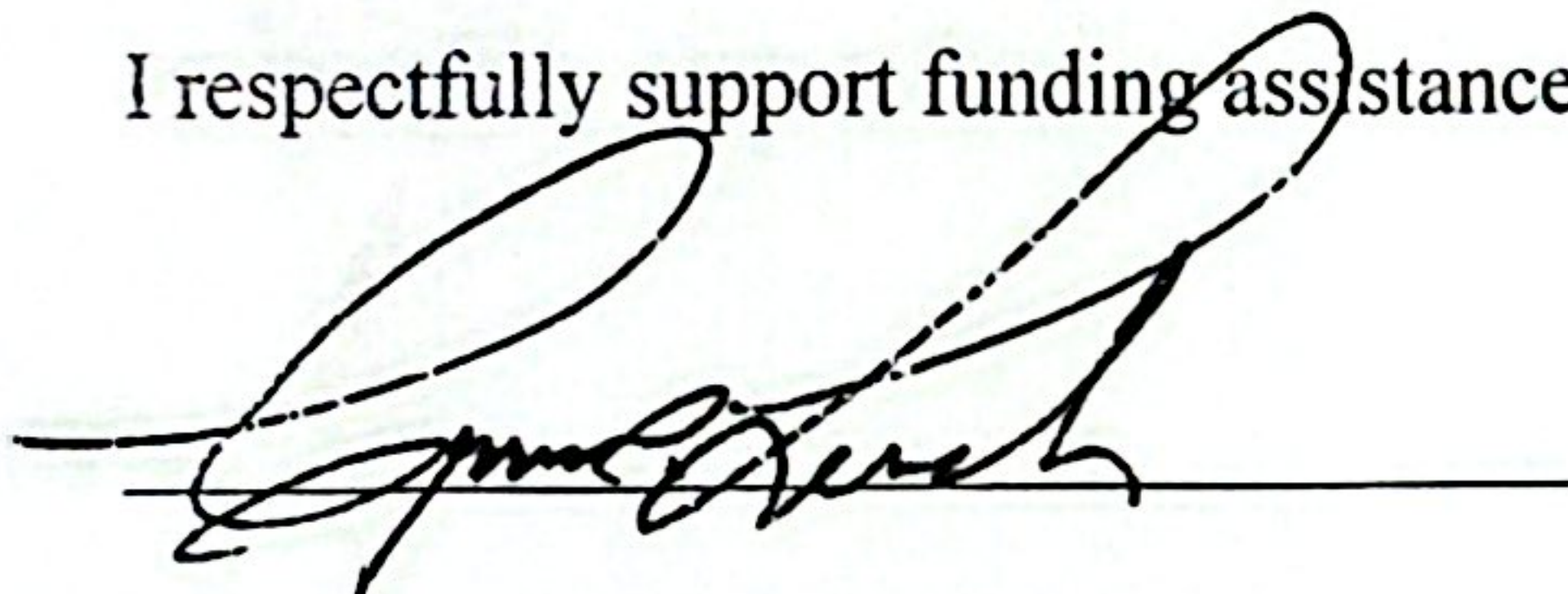
FACSIMILE
(941) 747-1461

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ernie Lisch. I and my family have been residents of Terra Ceia Island for over 40 years and I am very familiar with the long history of Terra Ceia Island. I have been a member of the Village Improvement Association (VIA) since 1983 and I strongly support preservation of the VIA Hall (The Hall)

The Hall has a long history as the center of the Island community. Well over 100 years old, the Hall has served as a meeting place of the community for the beautification, maintenance and even protection of the island residents. In the past and most recently, the Hall (the high point of the island) was the one place residents could meet and plan to prepare (and recover) from disasters such as Hurricane Helene and Milton. The Hall contains memorabilia and artifacts from the long history and life on the island. The Hall also serves as the voting center for local, state and federal elections. Repairs and preservation of this building are necessary and important to insure that the Hall continues to serve the community as it has done in the past.

I respectfully support funding assistance for repairs and preservation improvements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie C. Lisch', is written over a horizontal line.

Ernie C. Lisch
2 Horseshoe Loop
Terra Ceia, Florida