

*John Tobias*

May 9 , 2022

Commissioner Rita Pritchett

District 1

Tom Statham Park

7101 S. US Highway 1

Titusville, FL 32780

Attn: Commissioner Rita Pritchett;

My name is Bonnie Rock, husband John Rock, and we are snowbirds and have been spending our winters at Manatee Hammock Campground for 6 years, Lot 126. We have our spot already reserved for this winter, as we always book a year ahead. We arrive November 1, 2022 and depart March 31, 2023. We live in Akron, OH.

It has come to my attention that the commissioners might be discussing changing the time limit for campers from 168 days to 90 days. This change would affect so many of us that prefer to stay longer.

Seasonal campers like us make less work for park staff as we do our own lawn maintenance (raking leaves, trimming around our campers, piling all leaves out front to be picked up) and do not cause any problems, which is another plus. My husband maintains our lot just as if it were his own, we buy flowers that we plant and leave behind camper along the fence line, ones that come back every season and enhance the beauty of the campground. Weekend campers do not always clean up their areas when they leave, drive in excess of the speed limit, some have little consideration for quiet time and have several more people on sites than are allowed.

We choose Manatee Hammock for our winter home, but would not probably stay if the time limit were to change. If the majority of snowbirds at Manatee were to not spend their winters with you, there would be a dramatic change in revenue (approximately \$78,000 if you figure minimum of 25 snowbirds and stay 5 months, which there are considerably more than that).

We choose Manatee Hammock also because we have family in Port St. John. We are also in Florida as my husband has health issues that require him to be out of the cold winter weather.

If the snowbirds were to not be in Brevard County, especially Manatee Campground, do you realize the loss of income for your County? While we are there we spend money at all of the following:

- Restaurants (from Mims to Merritt Island) several times a week
- All grocery stores (Publix, Winn-Dixie, Save-A-Lot and small convenient stores
- Fast food and takeout food
- Gas for vehicles
- Storage areas for storing motorhomes as we do not drive ours back and forth
- Doctors and Dentists
- Drug stores
- Rental for post office boxes
- All of your second hand stores and your flea market on Wednesday
- Beauty shops, nail salons
- Services for any repairs on motorhomes
- Theaters, craft stores, Harley Davidson store, misc stores in shopping center

These are just a few of the businesses that could be affected if time limits were to be changed at Manatee Hammock and the snowbirds were to relocate to another County.

We are so happy with the staff you have working in the front office, Bjorn, Helen and Steve. They are so willing to be helpful, always pleasant to work with and answer any and all questions that we may have. We have never had a problem with any of them, they are very professional and polite and we look so forward to seeing them every time we are there.

I understand that there are local families that would like to enjoy Manatee also on weekends or for a week or so. Might we suggest having an area in the campground strictly for those who only stay a few days or a week or so.

Thank you for any and all consideration of our request and look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Bonnie/John Rock 483 Boyd Avenue, Akron OH 44305 Phone: 330 524 5650

cc: being sent to:

1. Terry Parks, Superintendent of North Parks
- ✓ 2. Jon Tobia
3. Curt Smith
4. Manatee Hammock Campground
5. Enclosing extra letters for commissioners that I do not have their name.

Would appreciate all district commissioners 1 thru 5 receive this letter.

*Curt Smith*

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