



Friends of Wild Iris  
802 W University Ave  
Gainesville, FL 32601

March 5, 2010

Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4 Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Dear Sir or Madam:

Friends of Wild Iris (FoWI) is proud to offer this letter of support for *Protect Gainesville's Citizens (PGC)* as they apply for the EPA Technical Assistance Grant.

FoWI is a non-profit organization that supports a range of programming focused on celebrating diversity and community participation. FoWI does this through events and collaborations with area non-profits, UF student groups, local creative talents, and local businesses. By donating space to PGC Community Involvement Meetings, the members of FoWI have heard numerous testimonials about the concerns over public safety issues from a wide range of citizens and viewpoints. We have also witnessed the dedication to which PGC applies itself to its mission, building community empowerment through education and engagement.

Residents close to the superfund site are terrified of the implications for themselves and their families, they are afraid for their pets and gardens. There remain so many unanswered questions about the air, soil, and water quality, much less how to repair damages and build effective preventative measures. Questions about the aquifer dangers have not been properly acknowledged and answered to the community at large. Then there are still the concerns of health risks, loss of property values, safety of children and families, and the overall quality of life for Gainesville residents.

Our community deserves to be addressed with clarity and with comprehensive data, with information that we can digest and understand. PGC can help organize an

effective campaign providing competent oversight to help citizens navigate this process. With increased public knowledge and engagement, the community can join in solidarity and truly play an integral role in the remediation process.

Board of Directors  
Friends of Wild Iris

**Mission:** To create social, educational and cultural opportunities to empower a diverse feminist community.

**Vision:** The Friends of Wild Iris envision a community of empowered people who inspire each other to reach higher levels of self-actualization through celebration of our diversity and appreciation for the inherent value of all people.

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