

HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE
— FOUNDATION —

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STATEMENT OF
HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION
ON
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY APPEAL TO
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

After six years of litigation, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (the Foundation) is disappointed that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) has chosen yet again to appeal another adverse court ruling against FAU. Unfortunately, the Foundation will now be forced to defend itself in Florida Supreme Court against FAU's now twice-failed attempt to gain control of the Foundation. This will drain Foundation resources that could otherwise be spent on ocean science and other research. Meanwhile, FAU will continue to spend taxpayer dollars on unnecessary litigation.

The Foundation's dedication and continuing support to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at FAU was never in question or at issue in this legal dispute. Throughout the years of litigation, the Foundation has awarded \$22 million to the Institute to support its scientific and oceanographic research programs. Our financial support has helped propel the Institute to become one of the world's foremost leaders in oceanographic research. The Foundation remains dedicated to its mission, and it will continue to provide funding and support to the Institute for ocean research during the upcoming unnecessary litigation.

FAU has refused to talk with the Foundation in the past and appears interested only in more litigation. Now is the time for FAU to stop wasting taxpayer money and come to the table. The Foundation still stands prepared to work constructively with FAU to amicably resolve our differences so that the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute can thrive.

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