

From: Marni Retzer <mretzer@capecoral.net>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 9:43:01 AM EDT

To: "Mayor Randall P. Henderson Jr." <RHenderson@cityftmyers.com>, Kevin Ruane <Kevin.Ruane@mysanibel.com>, "peter.simmons@cityofbonitasprings.org" <peter.simmons@cityofbonitasprings.org>, Nick Batos <batos@estero-fl.gov>, "Dennis@fortmyersbeachfl.gov" <Dennis@fortmyersbeachfl.gov>

Cc: John Szerlag <jszerlag@capecoral.net>

Subject: Lake O/New Land Acquisition Legislation

Good morning Mayors! I'm sending you a letter of support I'm hoping my council agrees to endorse and send to Congressman Clawson. The email below is from our lobbyist in DC. My hope is that you will all send letters of support from your councils. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Marni

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Wood, Amanda" <AWood@bplegal.com>

Date: Tue, Jul 19, 2016 at 3:39 PM -0400

Subject: Lake O/New Land Acquisition Legislation

To: "Marni Retzer" <mretzer@capecoral.net>

Cc: "Pearl Taylor" <ptaylor@capecoral.net>, "Terri Hall" <thall@capecoral.net>

Mayor, you've been so active on this issue, so I wanted to make sure that you had seen that on Friday Reps. Clawson and Murphy introduced new legislation, the Federal Partnership for Clean Water Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which creates a grant program to help states pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of land purchases to improve water quality and authorizes \$750 million per year to fund the program.

And I know that the Lake O discharges continue to be an important issue for the City, but I'm not sure that we've ever sent an official endorsement of the legislative solutions to Rep. Clawson. Specifically I'm suggesting a letter of support for the following, which I would be happy to draft. Please let me know if you'd like me to move forward with preparing language for you.

1. H.R. 4436 - Everglades for the Next Generation Act; provides \$800 million of emergency funding to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike and requiring completion of this critical project by December 31, 2020 – four to six years ahead of current schedules; would also provide the option of temporarily holding more water in the Lake during periods of heavy rains.
2. H.R.4793 — Everglades Land Acquisition Act of 2016; would set aside \$500 million for the Department of the Interior to purchase land south of Lake Okeechobee. Many experts agree that more storage, filtration, and a flow-way south from the lake are critical to move clean, naturally filtered fresh water to the Everglades and Florida Bay, instead of dumping nutrient-laden waters and toxins into Florida's fragile estuaries and coastal regions.
3. (awaiting bill number) Federal Partnership for Clean Water Land Acquisition Act of 2016; newly introduced and creates a grant program to help states pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of land purchases to improve water quality and authorizes \$750 million per year to fund the program.

Amanda

Amanda Wood

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August 17, 2016

The Honorable Curt Clawson
Member of Congress
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clawson:

On behalf of the Village of Estero, I would like to thank you for your leadership and action to address damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee which have led to the spread of toxic algal blooms in Florida. We are especially grateful for your bipartisan work to introduce legislation to resolve this matter and to provide resources to prevent future similar environmental disasters and protect Florida's fragile ecology.

We are supportive of and eager to help you advance the following key pieces of legislation that you have introduced to protect our state's water and wildlife:

- Everglades for the Next Generation Act, which provides \$800 million of emergency funding to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike and requires completion of this critical project by December 31, 2020, four to six years ahead of current schedules.
- Everglades Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which would set aside \$500 million for the Department of the Interior to purchase land south of Lake Okeechobee.
- Federal Partnership for Clean Water Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which creates a grant program to help states pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of land purchases to improve water quality and authorizes \$750 million per year to fund the program.

Southwest Florida's marine life and economy are suffering due to these discharges and your leadership in this effort is appreciated. If there is anything we can do to assist in moving this legislation forward, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Batos, Mayor
Village of Estero

August 17, 2016

Senator Bill Nelson
United States Senate
2000 Main Street #801
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the Village of Estero, I would like to thank you for your leadership and action to address damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee which have led to the spread of toxic algal blooms in Florida. We are especially grateful for your bipartisan work to introduce legislation to resolve this matter and to provide resources to prevent future similar environmental disasters and protect Florida's fragile ecology.

We are supportive of and eager to help you advance the **Everglades for the Next Generation Act**, which provides \$800 million of emergency funding to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike and requires completion of this critical project by December 31, 2020, four to six years ahead of current schedules.

We urge you to continue your support of the Southwest Florida environment by consideration of advancing related Senate Bills for other legislation that is currently being proposed in the House of Representatives, including:

- H.R. 4793 - Everglades Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which would set aside \$500 million for the Department of the Interior to purchase land south of Lake Okeechobee.

This bill will assist with the purchase of needed lands to recreate a flow-way from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. Many experts agree that additional storage, filtration, and a flow-way south of the lake are critical to move clean naturally filtered fresh water to the Everglades and Florida Bay, instead of dumping nutrient laden waters to the fragile estuaries and coastal regions.

- Awaiting Bill number - Federal Partnership for Clean Water Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which creates a grant program to help states pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of land purchases to improve water quality and authorizes \$750 million per year to fund the program.

This bill will assist with the acquisition of critical areas which can be utilized to treat water and prevent additional pollutants from being created.

Southwest Florida's marine life and economy are suffering due to these discharges and your leadership in this effort is appreciated. If there is anything we can do to assist in moving this legislation forward, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Batos, Mayor
Village of Estero