

March 7, 2011

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

**RE: Continuing Resolution**

Dear Senators:

In November 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) for Florida's flowing waters and lakes. As the Senators from Florida, you have the opportunity to protect Florida's employers, families and economy from this costly, unprecedented NNC rule by supporting an amendment to H.R. 1 similar to the one sponsored by Representative Tom Rooney and passed by the United States House of Representatives. We ask that you introduce and support an amendment in the Senate to the Continuing Resolution or a similar spending bill that would defund the EPA NNC final rule.

As representatives from agriculture, water utilities, the business community, local governments and labor, we are very concerned about the cost of this onerous regulation to all Floridians. Studies produced by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and two independent studies produced by Cardno ENTRIX and Carollo Engineers all show the impact of the EPA's mandates to Florida's economy will be in the billions, including household water utility bill increases of approximately \$700 per year. When realizing this projected cost, a recent Mason-Dixon poll shows 68 percent of Floridians oppose these mandates. Floridians simply cannot afford this additional financial burden. Additionally, the study produced by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services concludes that Florida's agricultural community will lose 14,545 full-time and part-time jobs.

In addition to concerns about the heavy economic burden the EPA water mandates will place on Florida's employers and working families, there are also significant questions regarding the scientific validity of the new mandates. Experts in Florida continue to question the scientific basis for these standards and whether they are even attainable with existing technologies. Florida's existing nutrient water quality programs are more effective than the new EPA regulations, because the current policies are based on scientific evaluations of the state's vast, varied and unique ecosystems.

In August 2010, a bipartisan coalition of the Florida Congressional Delegation asked the EPA to delay finalizing its nutrient rules until an independent review of the economic impacts and scientific underpinnings of the rule was performed. EPA declined this request. Because the EPA refused the Delegation's request, we respectfully ask that you support the state of Florida and sponsor an amendment to deny the EPA funding for implementation and enforcement of this ill-conceived, unprecedented federal rule.

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Thank you for listening to our concerns. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure these new standards will not place undue burdens on Florida's employers, families and local governments.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering  
Companies  
Association of Florida Community  
Developers  
Associated Industries of Florida  
Bay County  
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.  
City of Panama City  
Destin Water Users, Inc.  
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority  
Engenuity Group, Inc.  
Farm Credit Bureau  
Farm Credit of Central Florida  
Farm Credit of Florida  
Farm Credit of Northwest Florida  
Florida Association of Counties  
Florida Association of Special Districts  
Florida Beverage Association  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Crystals Corporation  
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association  
Florida Electric Power Coordinating  
Group, Inc  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical  
Association  
Florida Forestry Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Gulf Coast Building & Construction  
Trades Council  
Florida Home Builders Association

Floridians for Industry, Jobs, & Growth  
Florida Land Council  
Florida League of Cities  
Florida Nursery, Growers &  
Landscape Association  
Florida Pest Management Association  
Florida Poultry Federation  
Florida Pulp & Paper Association  
Florida Rural Water Association  
Florida Sod Growers Cooperative  
Florida Stormwater Association  
Florida Water Environment Association  
Utility Council  
Florida Water Quality Coalition, Inc.  
Gulf Citrus Growers Association  
Indian River Citrus League  
International Union – UFCW Local 1625  
Manufacturers Association of Florida  
North Florida Growers Exchange  
Okaloosa County Water & Sewer System  
Palm Beach County Water Utilities  
Peace River Valley Citrus Growers  
Association  
PCS Phosphate – White Springs  
Rayonier  
Santa Rosa County  
South Walton Utility Company, Inc.  
Southeast Milk Inc.  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of FL  
The Fertilizer Institute  
United Food & Commercial Workers  
U.S. Sugar Corporation