

Partners in Progress

Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners

Chairman's Council

Florida Power & Light Company

LRP Media Group

Stiles-Nicholson Foundation

Tortoise Properties LLC

Wexford Capital LP

Board of Advisor Members

Aerojet Rocketdyne

BankUnited

Bank of America

Baptist Health South Florida

Caler, Donten, Levine, Cohen, Porter & Veil, P.A.

CareerSource Palm Beach County

DePuy Synthes Power Tools, a Johnson & Johnson Co.

Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC

Florida Crystals Corporation

Greenberg Traurig

Gunster

Hardrives, Inc.

HCA Palm Beach Hospitals – JFK Main,

North Campus and Palms West Hospitals

Hedrick Brothers Construction

Hospital for Special Surgery Florida

J.C. White

JP Morgan Chase

Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith

Martens Group

Minto Communities, LLC

Nova Southeastern University

Palm Beach Aggregates, LLC

Palm Beach Park of Commerce

PNC Bank

Pratt & Whitney

Raymond James/Boynnton Financial Group

RSM US LLP

South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine

South Florida Business Journal

TD Bank

Wells Fargo

Corporate Members

ADT

ADT Commercial

Anderson-Moore Construction Corp.

BDO

Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and CPA's

Capital Analytics

Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI)

CBRE, Inc.

CenterState Bank

Comerica Bank

Compson Associates, Inc.

Craft Construction Company

Crocker Partners

Day Pitney Richman Greer

DSM Capital Partners, LLC

EisnerAmper LLP

ESPN West Palm

Fifth Third Bank

First Citizens Bank

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Blue

Florida Public Utilities Company

Fox Rothschild LLP

Gentile Glas Holloway O'Mahoney & Associates, Inc.

GL Homes

Good Samaritan Medical Center

Hi-Tech Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

I.T. Solutions of South Florida, Inc.

Ideabar

JLL

Kesharvarz & Associates

Lessing's Hospitality Group

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Lynn University

Moss & Associates

NAI/Merin Hunter Codman

Norwest Equity Partners

Oxbridge Academy

Palm Beach Software Design

Palm Beach State College

Plastridge Insurance Agency

Regions Bank

The Related Companies

Rendina Healthcare Real Estate

Rybovich

SBA Communications Corporation

Sisca Construction Services, LLC.

Skanska USA Building, Inc.

The Special Event Resource and Design Group, Inc.

Sympatico Real Estate

Truist Bank

U.S. Polo Association Global Licensing

Verdex Construction

The Weitz Company

Wellington Regional Medical Center



April 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY:

Joshua.Rogin@mail.house.gov

Joshua.Lipman@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Ted Deutch

United States House of Representatives, District FL-22

2447 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Request to Protect Florida's Critical Water Supply from Lake Okeechobee

Dear Representative Deutch:

We write to you during this unprecedented global emergency requesting your help in protecting Florida's critical water supply in Lake Okeechobee, because the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is failing to do so. The undersigned represent a diverse group of stakeholders, businesses, and communities that all rely on water from Lake Okeechobee for our businesses, for the well-being of our communities, and the enjoyment and restoration of our natural environment.

In 2000, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA 2000") authorizing an ecological restoration plan for America's Everglades ecosystem. Today, we know it as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP"). CERP directed the Corps and State of Florida, as the local sponsor, to restore our natural environment, *while* providing for our water-related needs, including water supply for people and businesses. CERP was historic. It passed after the State of Florida, the Corps, and diverse businesses, municipalities, farmers, and environmental groups spent nearly a decade developing it. Many of the undersigned were involved in the passage of CERP and all of us are committed to its success.

We recently learned though that the Corps is ignoring a critical feature of WRDA 2000, the Savings Clause¹. The Savings Clause directs the Corps to protect the water supply that was in place in 2000, as it restores the environment. When Congress passed WRDA 2000, it included Lake Okeechobee as part of WRDA 2000. This was an essential element then, and it is just as important now.

Today, 20 years after Congress spoke, the Corps' position is that it will not protect the legal uses of water in place in 2000. Instead, it intends to permanently consign us to the diminished supply available when the Lake was lowered temporarily to repair the dike. The Corps claims that the Lake is not part of WRDA 2000 and, therefore, the water supply protections in the Savings Clause will not apply. This position is not supported by WRDA 2000 and betrays the promises the Corps made to us in 2000. The Corps seeks to unilaterally free itself of complying with WRDA 2000. If allowed to do so, Florida's existing and future water supply will be jeopardized at a time when we need assurances that sufficient water will be available for everyone.

¹ Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.



The Honorable Ted Deutch
April 28, 2020
Page 2

With 1.8 billion dollars invested in the Lake's dike repairs, and Congress' direction in WRDA 2018 to expedite the new Lake schedule, the Corps is well positioned to fulfill the commitments in WRDA 2000 – not abandon them.

During our current global emergency, when so much uncertainty permeates our daily lives, it is imperative that our water supply be preserved for our communities' health and safety and our Nation's food security. We ask that Congress re-assert its prior direction to the Corps to protect our water supply with the clarifying language attached for your consideration. We thank you for your work every day in protecting Florida's water, especially during these trying times facing our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Smallridge'.

Kelly Smallridge
President & CEO

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation
Mr. Joshua Rogin, Chief of Staff, United States House of Representatives,
Congressman Ted Deutch
Mr. Joshua Lipman, Legislative Director, United States House of Representatives,
Congressman Ted Deutch

Proposed Language: Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541 applies to the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule and the Secretary shall use the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule in place in December 2000 as the base condition for the analysis required under Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.

Partners in Progress
Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners
Chairman's Council

Florida Power & Light Company
LRP Media Group
Stiles-Nicholson Foundation
Tortoise Properties LLC
Wexford Capital LP

Board of Advisor Members

Aerojet Rocketdyne
BankUnited
Bank of America
Baptist Health South Florida
Caler, Donten, Levine, Cohen, Porter & Veil, P.A.
CareerSource Palm Beach County
DePuy Synthes Power Tools, a Johnson & Johnson Co.
Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC
Florida Crystals Corporation
Greenberg Traurig
Gunster
Hardrives, Inc.
HCA Palm Beach Hospitals – JFK Main,
North Campus and Palms West Hospitals
Hedrick Brothers Construction
Hospital for Special Surgery Florida
J.C. White
JP Morgan Chase
Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith
Martens Group
Minto Communities, LLC
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach Aggregates, LLC
Palm Beach Park of Commerce
PNC Bank
Pratt & Whitney
Raymond James/Boynnton Financial Group
RSM US LLP
South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine
South Florida Business Journal
TD Bank
Wells Fargo

Corporate Members

ADT
ADT Commercial
Anderson-Moore Construction Corp.
BDO
Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and CPA's
Capital Analytics
Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI)
CBRE, Inc.
CenterState Bank
Comerica Bank
Compton Associates, Inc.
Craft Construction Company
Crockier Partners
Day Pitney Richman Greer
DSM Capital Partners, LLC
EisnerAmper LLP
ESPN West Palm
Fifth Third Bank
First Citizens Bank
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Blue
Florida Public Utilities Company
Fox Rothschild LLP
Gentile Glas Holloway O'Mahoney & Associates, Inc.
GL Homes
Good Samaritan Medical Center
Hi-Tech Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.
I.T. Solutions of South Florida, Inc.
Ideabar
JLL
Kesharvarz & Associates
Lessing's Hospitality Group
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Lynn University
Moss & Associates
NAI/Merin Hunter Codman
Norwest Equity Partners
Oxbridge Academy
Palm Beach Software Design
Palm Beach State College
Plastridge Insurance Agency
Regions Bank
The Related Companies
Rendina Healthcare Real Estate
Rybovich
SBA Communications Corporation
Sisca Construction Services, LLC.
Skanska USA Building, Inc.
The Special Event Resource and Design Group, Inc.
Sympatico Real Estate
Truist Bank
U.S. Polo Association Global Licensing
Verdex Construction
The Weitz Company
Wellington Regional Medical Center



April 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY:

Joshua.Cohen@mail.house.gov

Bradley.Solyan@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Lois Frankel

United States House of Representatives, District FL-21

2447 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Request to Protect Florida's Critical Water Supply from Lake Okeechobee

Dear Representative Frankel:

We write to you during this unprecedented global emergency requesting your help in protecting Florida's critical water supply in Lake Okeechobee, because the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is failing to do so. The undersigned represent a diverse group of stakeholders, businesses, and communities that all rely on water from Lake Okeechobee for our businesses, for the well-being of our communities, and the enjoyment and restoration of our natural environment.

In 2000, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA 2000") authorizing an ecological restoration plan for America's Everglades ecosystem. Today, we know it as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP"). CERP directed the Corps and State of Florida, as the local sponsor, to restore our natural environment, *while* providing for our water-related needs, including water supply for people and businesses. CERP was historic. It passed after the State of Florida, the Corps, and diverse businesses, municipalities, farmers, and environmental groups spent nearly a decade developing it. Many of the undersigned were involved in the passage of CERP and all of us are committed to its success.

We recently learned though that the Corps is ignoring a critical feature of WRDA 2000, the Savings Clause¹. The Savings Clause directs the Corps to protect the water supply that was in place in 2000, as it restores the environment. When Congress passed WRDA 2000, it included Lake Okeechobee as part of WRDA 2000. This was an essential element then, and it is just as important now.

Today, 20 years after Congress spoke, the Corps' position is that it will not protect the legal uses of water in place in 2000. Instead, it intends to permanently consign us to the diminished supply available when the Lake was lowered temporarily to repair the dike. The Corps claims that the Lake is not part of WRDA 2000 and, therefore, the water supply protections in the Savings Clause will not apply. This position is not supported by WRDA 2000 and betrays the promises the Corps made to us in 2000. The Corps seeks to unilaterally free itself of complying with WRDA 2000. If allowed to do so, Florida's existing and future water supply will be jeopardized at a time when we need assurances that sufficient water will be available for everyone.

¹ Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.



The Honorable Lois Frankel
April 28, 2020
Page 2

With 1.8 billion dollars invested in the Lake's dike repairs, and Congress' direction in WRDA 2018 to expedite the new Lake schedule, the Corps is well positioned to fulfill the commitments in WRDA 2000 – not abandon them.

During our current global emergency, when so much uncertainty permeates our daily lives, it is imperative that our water supply be preserved for our communities' health and safety and our Nation's food security. We ask that Congress re-assert its prior direction to the Corps to protect our water supply with the clarifying language attached for your consideration. We thank you for your work every day in protecting Florida's water, especially during these trying times facing our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Smallridge'.

Kelly Smallridge
President & CEO

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation
Mr. Joshua Cohen, Chief of Staff, United States House of Representatives,
Congresswoman Lois Frankel
Mr. Bradley Solyan, Legislative Director, United States House of Representatives,
Congresswoman Lois Frankel

Proposed Language: Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541 applies to the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule and the Secretary shall use the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule in place in December 2000 as the base condition for the analysis required under Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.

Partners in Progress
Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners
Chairman's Council

Florida Power & Light Company
LRP Media Group
Stiles-Nicholson Foundation
Tortoise Properties LLC
Wexford Capital LP

Board of Advisor Members

Aerojet Rocketdyne
BankUnited
Bank of America
Baptist Health South Florida
Caler, Donten, Levine, Cohen, Porter & Veil, P.A.
CareerSource Palm Beach County
DePuy Synthes Power Tools, a Johnson & Johnson Co.
Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC
Florida Crystals Corporation
Greenberg Traurig
Gunster
Hardrives, Inc.
HCA Palm Beach Hospitals – JFK Main,
North Campus and Palms West Hospitals
Hedrick Brothers Construction
Hospital for Special Surgery Florida
J.C. White
JP Morgan Chase
Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith
Martens Group
Minto Communities, LLC
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach Aggregates, LLC
Palm Beach Park of Commerce
PNC Bank
Pratt & Whitney
Raymond James/Boynnton Financial Group
RSM US LLP
South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine
South Florida Business Journal
TD Bank
Wells Fargo

Corporate Members

ADT
ADT Commercial
Anderson-Moore Construction Corp.
BDO
Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and CPA's
Capital Analytics
Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI)
CBRE, Inc.
CenterState Bank
Comerica Bank
Compton Associates, Inc.
Craft Construction Company
Crockett Partners
Day Pitney Richman Greer
DSM Capital Partners, LLC
EisnerAmper LLP
ESPN West Palm
Fifth Third Bank
First Citizens Bank
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Blue
Florida Public Utilities Company
Fox Rothschild LLP
Gentile Glas Holloway O'Mahoney & Associates, Inc.
GL Homes
Good Samaritan Medical Center
Hi-Tech Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.
I.T. Solutions of South Florida, Inc.
Ideabar
JLL
Kesharvarz & Associates
Lessing's Hospitality Group
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Lynn University
Moss & Associates
NAI/Merin Hunter Codman
Norwest Equity Partners
Oxbridge Academy
Palm Beach Software Design
Palm Beach State College
Plastridge Insurance Agency
Regions Bank
The Related Companies
Rendina Healthcare Real Estate
Rybovich
SBA Communications Corporation
Sisca Construction Services, LLC.
Skanska USA Building, Inc.
The Special Event Resource and Design Group, Inc.
Sympatico Real Estate
Truist Bank
U.S. Polo Association Global Licensing
Verdex Construction
The Weitz Company
Wellington Regional Medical Center



April 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY:

Lale.Morrison@mail.house.gov

Tom.Carnes@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Alcee Hastings
United States House of Representatives, District FL-20
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Request to Protect Florida's Critical Water Supply from Lake Okeechobee

Dear Representative Hastings:

We write to you during this unprecedented global emergency requesting your help in protecting Florida's critical water supply in Lake Okeechobee, because the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is failing to do so. The undersigned represent a diverse group of stakeholders, businesses, and communities that all rely on water from Lake Okeechobee for our businesses, for the well-being of our communities, and the enjoyment and restoration of our natural environment.

In 2000, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA 2000") authorizing an ecological restoration plan for America's Everglades ecosystem. Today, we know it as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP"). CERP directed the Corps and State of Florida, as the local sponsor, to restore our natural environment, *while* providing for our water-related needs, including water supply for people and businesses. CERP was historic. It passed after the State of Florida, the Corps, and diverse businesses, municipalities, farmers, and environmental groups spent nearly a decade developing it. Many of the undersigned were involved in the passage of CERP and all of us are committed to its success.

We recently learned though that the Corps is ignoring a critical feature of WRDA 2000, the Savings Clause¹. The Savings Clause directs the Corps to protect the water supply that was in place in 2000, as it restores the environment. When Congress passed WRDA 2000, it included Lake Okeechobee as part of WRDA 2000. This was an essential element then, and it is just as important now.

Today, 20 years after Congress spoke, the Corps' position is that it will not protect the legal uses of water in place in 2000. Instead, it intends to permanently consign us to the diminished supply available when the Lake was lowered temporarily to repair the dike. The Corps claims that the Lake is not part of WRDA 2000 and, therefore, the water supply protections in the Savings Clause will not apply. This position is not supported by WRDA 2000 and betrays the promises the Corps made to us in 2000. The Corps seeks to unilaterally free itself of complying with WRDA 2000. If allowed to do so, Florida's existing and future water supply will be jeopardized at a time when we need assurances that sufficient water will be available for everyone.

¹ Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.



The Honorable Alcee Hastings
April 28, 2020
Page 2

With 1.8 billion dollars invested in the Lake's dike repairs, and Congress' direction in WRDA 2018 to expedite the new Lake schedule, the Corps is well positioned to fulfill the commitments in WRDA 2000 – not abandon them.

During our current global emergency, when so much uncertainty permeates our daily lives, it is imperative that our water supply be preserved for our communities' health and safety and our Nation's food security. We ask that Congress re-assert its prior direction to the Corps to protect our water supply with the clarifying language attached for your consideration. We thank you for your work every day in protecting Florida's water, especially during these trying times facing our Nation.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smallridge
President & CEO

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation
Ms. Lale Morrison, Chief of Staff, United States House of Representatives,
Congressman Alcee Hastings
Mr. Tom Carnes, Legislative Director, United States House of Representatives,
Congressman Alcee Hastings

Proposed Language: Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541 applies to the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule and the Secretary shall use the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule in place in December 2000 as the base condition for the analysis required under Section 601(h)(5) of Public Law 106-541.