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November 13, 2009

Dear Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's intent to single out the state of Florida for onerous, arbitrary and costly water quality requirements that will devastate Florida's economy, put Florida citizens out of work and punish a national leader in water clean up – all at the expense of Florida taxpayers.

We represent a broad cross-section of Florida interests including Florida employers, advocates for taxpayers and former Florida Department of Environmental Protection secretaries.

It is important that the Florida delegation be made aware of these developments in a timely manner. We would like to brief the Florida Congressional Delegation during your next meeting regarding EPA's actions and the devastating impact to our state.

While we support a science-based effort to further clean up Florida's waters, we are convinced that federally imposed numerical nutrient criteria is the wrong way to do it. Florida already has invested more than \$20 million in its Maximum Daily Loads program. Our progress will be brought to a standstill by new standards that are being forced through by a lawsuit, not sound science.

The EPA is enforcing these regulations on Florida and only Florida, not on Alabama, Georgia and other states that feed Florida's water sources.

These unfair proposed federal restrictions would punish Florida even though our state has been a national leader in protecting clean lakes and rivers. In fact, Florida is responsible for more than a third of all the nutrient-related water-quality samples in the national water quality database. What message does it send to other states when the federal government penalizing Florida with its own diligently gathered data? We believe punishing Florida for its success will have a chilling effect on efforts to promote water quality across the nation.

If the federal government is going to pursue water-quality requirements, it should pursue them nationwide, not by using Florida as a guinea pig in a financially challenging time, slowing our economic recovery and saddling Florida with costs that reach tens of billions of dollars.

The increased costs associated with the proposed numerical nutrient requirements to be proposed as early as January 2010 will cause significant and lasting economic hardship for Florida's families, employers and state and local governments.

We ask you, our representatives in Congress, to urgently request EPA to reconsider and withdraw the determination that Florida adopt numeric nutrient standards by January 14, 2010.

Otherwise, Florida will face a disastrous road ahead, filled with even higher unemployment, an exodus of business and jobs from Florida, higher utility bills and local taxes and a stalled economic recovery.

We look forward to an opportunity to speak to the Florida Congressional Delegation regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Associated Industries of Florida

Association of Florida Community Developers

Audubon Ranch

BCI Engineers & Scientists, Inc.

Busted Rail Groves, John B. Allen

Carlton & Carlton Ranch

CF Industries

Clay County Utility Authority

Colleen Castille, Florida DEP Secretary, 2003-2007

Consolidated Tomoka Land Co.

Crop Production Services

DCR Services

Dover Fresh Produce, LLC

D & S Cattle Company, Inc.

D3 Farms

ELD Groves

ENTRIX, Inc.

Epperson & Company

First Coast Manufacturers Association
The Florida Aquaculture Association
Florida Association of Special Districts
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Engineering Society
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Fence Post
Florida Fertilizer Company
Florida Minerals and Chemistry Council
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
Florida Pest Management Association
Florida Pulp and Paper Association Environmental Affairs, Inc.
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
Florida TaxWatch
The Florida Water Quality Coalition, Inc.
G and F Farms, LLC
Gulf Citrus Growers
Hamilton Farms
Hardee Ranch Supply, Inc.
Heartland Growers Supply
Heart of Florida Greenhouses, Inc.
Tom Herndon, Florida Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers
Hillsborough County Farm Bureau
Jemy West Hinton
International Ship Repair

Iron Workers Local Union 397

Jahna Concrete

Johnson Harvesting

Krause Grove Service

L C Groves

North Florida Growers Exchange

Manufacturers Association of Florida

McCauley Cattle Service

M&B Products, Inc.

Owens Rd. Grove

Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association

Port of Tampa Maritime Industry Association

Rayonier

SATCO

Southeast Milk

Paul Steinbrecher, Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida

Sunbelt Milk Producers

Sure Shot Piping

Sylvite

Torrey Oaks Golf Course

Virginia Wetherell, Florida DER/DEP Secretary, 1993-1999