

### **Congressman Patrick Murphy – Advocacy for C-44 Project**

- January 22, 2013: In first days in office, visited Pentagon and met with Army Corps official Rock Salt and advocated for the completion of C-44
- February 20, 2013: Met Col. Dodd, Army Corps District Commander, to discuss priorities, such as C-44 in District
- April 25, 2013: Met with Col. Dodd, District Commander, advocated for C-44 funding in DC
- June 6, 2013: Met with Army Corps Assistant Secretary Darcy and advocated for C-44 funding in D.C.
- July 16, 2013: Discussed state of waterways in the district and C-44 with Vice President Joe Biden and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer
- August 17, 2013: Met with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and discussed state of waterways and C-44 project
- September 5, 2013: Letter to Vice President Joe Biden advocating for C-44 funding
- September 11, 2013: Met with Senator Bill Nelson to discuss ways to work together to support the completion of C-44 and the Indian River Lagoon project
- September 26, 2013: Met with House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, advocating for importance of C-44 funding, and brought water bottle example of state of river
- September 26, 2013: Met with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, advocating for importance of C-44 funding, and brought water bottle example of state of river
- October 3, 2013: Hosted bipartisan Congressional briefing with local residents and members of Congress advocating for the completion of begun projects such as C-44
- October 8, 2013: Sent bipartisan letter to President encouraging him to visit the area and requested funding for finished projects, along with pictures from River Kidz
- October 9, 2013: Visited White House, brought letter and River Kidz pictures
- October 14, 2013: Took House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer on helicopter tour of water ways, again noting importance of completing C-44 project
- October 23, 2013: Spoke on the House floor about the state of the waterways, funding for C-44 and moving water south, brought bottle of river water to the floor
- October 23, 2013: Visited White House and brought up C-44
- October 28, 2013: Dinner with Vice President Joe Biden and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, discussed waterways and importance of C-44 funding
- November 6, 2013: Letter to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) asking for C-44 funding in FY 2015 budget
- November 11, 2013: Met Sally Ericsson, Director of Natural Resources at OMB and advocated for C-44 funding
- January 11, 2014: Hosted Army Corps Assistant Secretary Darcy on tour of waterways and again advocated for C-44 funding
- January 28, 2014: Met with Col. Dodd, Army Corps District Commander, in Washington D.C.
- January 30, 2014: Letter to President Obama and Vice President Biden asking for maximum amount possible for C-44 in FY 2015
- February 4, 2014: Visited White House with other Congressmen, discussed C-44 with White House staff
- February 25, 2014: Visited White House officials, brought drawings of pollution in river from the “Green Team” at Palm City Elementary

PATRICK E. MURPHY  
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0918

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RANKING MEMBER, AGRICULTURE,  
ENERGY, AND TRADE

January 31, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my grave concern for the state of the waterways in Florida's 18th District, and to bring to your attention some ways you can help. Funding Phase Two of the C-44 component of the Indian River Lagoon Everglades restoration project, and expedited completion of the Army Corps of Engineer's final Chief's Report of the Central Everglades Planning Project will result in large scale reductions in the environmental harm occurring in the waters of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches.

Nutrient heavy freshwater from Lake Okeechobee and local runoff inundate the waterways of the St. Lucie River and its estuary every year. The water quality of the local waterways this summer reached such terrible levels that it made national headlines. The St. Lucie River contained levels of enteric bacteria so high that local officials posted public health warnings, and toxic algae blooms were declared throughout the river and estuary.

In addition to the threat to the public health the water quality poses, this ecologically rare area has been impacted in ways many fear may not be reversible. The St. Lucie Estuary, known to be the most biologically diverse estuary in North America, is severely damaged by the contaminated freshwater that inundates the waterways during periods of heavy rainfall, and many species including some listed as endangered die in large numbers.

Key portion of the local Everglades Restoration Project

The federal government responded to this situation in 2007 by authorizing the first stages of the Indian River Lagoon South Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. Once completed, the project will reduce the harm to these waterways by providing water storage and treatment areas. Currently the C-44 reservoir and stormwater treatment areas, the most vital component of the project, are under construction. Funding for this project to move forward into its next and most important phase is especially crucial.

I urge in the strongest possible terms that your Administration allocate funding to begin Phase Two of the crucial C-44 project. While this multiyear project phase is slated for completion in

2018, it's important that funding be allocated this year to begin work on the second phase in order to complete this vital project as soon as possible.

Central Everglades Planning Project

Another vital component to providing relief to the battered waterways of the 18<sup>th</sup> District is to allow more water to flow naturally to the south of Lake Okeechobee instead of forcing releases to the east and west where the water causes significant damage. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which will help restore the natural water flow and increase the amount of water that can flow into the central Everglades, is currently in the final stages of approval and requires a final Chief's Report from the Army Corps of Engineers to Congress in order to be authorized.

While the policies in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) are still being finalized, time is of the essence for the Corps to complete the Chief's Report on this vital project. The sooner that this project is authorized the sooner that restoration can progress without further delay.

As must be clear by now, the completion of the C-44 storage and treatment component and authorization of CEPP are of the utmost importance to me and the constituents I am privileged to represent. I ask for your help to prevent dangerous pollutants and nutrients from destroying our nation's most biodiverse estuary. Together, the completion of these projects will provide relief to our severely harmed waterways. With your help, the precious waterways and estuaries of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches may have a chance at recovery. The region's health, safety, environment and economy depend on it.

Sincerely,



Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

PATRICK E. MURPHY  
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0918

January 30, 2014

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SUBCOMMITTEE:  
RANKING MEMBER, AGRICULTURE,  
ENERGY, AND TRADE

Vice President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing to express my grave concern for the state of the waterways in Florida's 18th District, and to bring to your attention some ways you can help. Fully funding Phase Two of the C-44 component of the Indian River Lagoon Everglades restoration project and expedited completion of the Army Corps of Engineer's final Chief's Report of the Central Everglades Planning Project will result in large scale reductions in the environmental harm occurring in the waters of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. Nutrient heavy freshwater from Lake Okeechobee and local runoff inundate the waterways of the St. Lucie River and its estuary every year. The water quality of the local waterways this summer reached such terrible levels that it made national headlines. The St. Lucie River contained levels of enteric bacteria so high that local officials posted public health warnings, and toxic algae blooms were declared throughout the river and estuary.

In addition to the threat to the public health the water quality poses, this ecologically rare area has been impacted in ways many fear may not be reversible. The St. Lucie Estuary, known to be the most biologically diverse estuary in North America, is severely damaged by the contaminated freshwater that inundates the waterways during periods of heavy rainfall, and many species including some listed as endangered die in large numbers.

Key portion of the local Everglades Restoration Project

The federal government responded to this situation in 2007 by authorizing the first stages of the Indian River Lagoon South Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. Once completed, the project will reduce the harm to these waterways by providing water storage and treatment areas. Currently the C-44 reservoir and stormwater treatment areas, the most vital component of the project, are under construction. Funding for this project to move forward into its next and most important phase is especially crucial.

I urge in the strongest possible terms that your Administration allocate the maximum amount that can be expended in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for Phase Two of the C-44 Project. I cannot understate the importance of this project to the Treasure Coast of Florida.

Central Everglades Planning Project

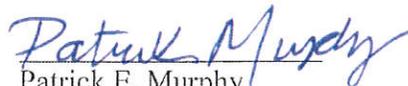
Another vital component to providing relief to the battered waterways of the 18<sup>th</sup> District is to allow more water to flow naturally to the south of Lake Okeechobee instead of forcing releases to the east and west where the water causes significant damage. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which will help restore the natural water flow and increase the amount of water that can flow into the central Everglades, is currently in the final stages of approval and requires a final Chief's Report from the Army Corps of Engineers to Congress in order to be authorized.

While the policies in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) are still being finalized, time is of the essence for the Corps to complete the Chief's Report on this vital project. The sooner that this project is authorized the sooner that restoration can progress without further delay.

As must be clear by now, the completion of the C-44 storage and treatment component and authorization for CEPP are of the utmost importance to me and the constituents I am privileged to represent. Together, the completion of these projects will provide relief to our severely harmed waterways.

I ask for your help in bringing attention to this matter to help prevent dangerous pollutants and nutrients from destroying our nation's most biodiverse estuary, and again invite you to come to the 18<sup>th</sup> District and see for yourself how critical it is that the federal government do all that it can to stop the pollution in the area waterways. With your help, the precious waterways and estuaries of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches may have a chance at recovery. The region's health, safety, environment and economy depend on it.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Burwell,

We are writing to ask that funding for the second phase of the C-44 project, a critical water treatment project in Florida which will provide relief to a region devastated by pollution, be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request.

Nutrient heavy freshwater from Lake Okeechobee and local runoff have inundated the waterways of the St. Lucie River and its estuary. The Army Corps of Engineers' current management of the aging Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee entails sending billions of gallons of polluted freshwater into the St. Lucie River. These discharges have a direct and serious impact on these waterways, dramatically threatening public health, the environment, and the economy of the Treasure Coast of Florida.

This summer, the river contained such high levels of enteric bacteria that local officials posted public health warnings, urging local communities to avoid contact with the water. Toxic algae blooms were also declared throughout the waterway, and many residents reported infections resulting from their interaction with the water. The situation has reached such critical levels that our polluted waters were recently covered in the national news.

The environment of the area has been impacted in ways many fear may not be reversible. When the normally brackish waters of the St. Lucie Estuary are pummeled with contaminated freshwater, marine life crucial to the entire ecosystem dies off completely. This estuary is part of the Indian River Lagoon, the most biodiverse estuary system in the United States; yet, these harmful water discharges are severely damaging this rare and precious habitat. Beyond the serious risks to public health and ecological damage, the local economy depends on tourism dollars, and the success or failure of small businesses in the area is directly connected to the quality of the waterways. When the river is devastated by pollution, the economy suffers.

The federal government responded to this situation in 2007 by authorizing the first stages of the Indian River Lagoon South Central Everglades Restoration Project. Once completed, the project will reduce the damaging effects of watershed runoff and discharges from Lake Okeechobee by

providing an area of 170,000 acres for water storage and treatment. Currently the C-44 reservoir and stormwater treatment areas, the most vital component of the entire project, are under construction. However, there is currently no funding available for this project to move forward into its next and most important phase.

The Everglades region is unique in the world for the variety of rare species of plants and animals that inhabit the area. However the area is also uniquely threatened by urban growth, pollution, and storm systems. It is because of these distinct and precious characteristics that the United States has made protecting the Everglades an environmental priority.

We urge in the strongest possible terms that your office and the Administration allocate the maximum amount that can be expended in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the completion of Phase Two of the C-44 Project. We cannot understate the importance of this project to the Treasure Coast of Florida. C-44 must move forward as quickly as possible to prevent dangerous pollutants and nutrients from destroying our nation's most biodiverse estuary. The region's health and safety depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

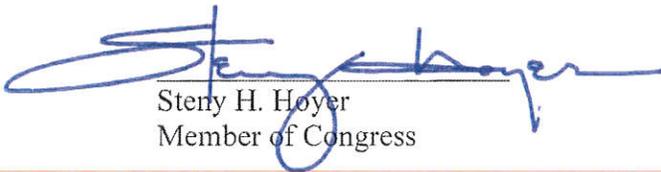
Sincerely,



Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress



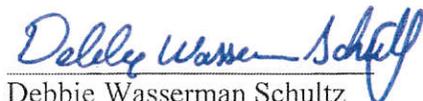
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



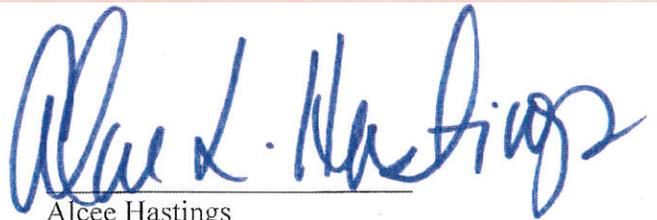
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



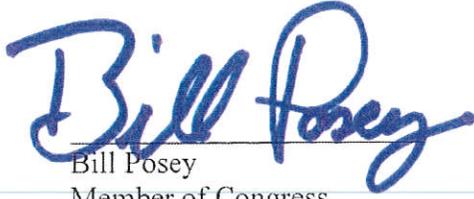
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



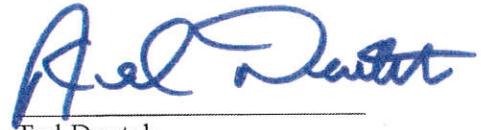
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



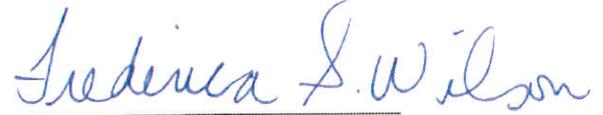
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Cc: Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Brigadier General Donald E. Jackson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division

Colonel Alan Dodd, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you on behalf of the millions of Floridians families negatively impacted by the Army Corps of Engineers' discharges of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee. We recently held a listening session in Washington, D.C. for our neighbors and concerned Floridians to discuss the problem and the potential solutions. During our discussion, which included the support of Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Whip Hoyer, Chairman Bill Shuster and a majority of the Florida delegation, it became apparent that a visit by you to the affected areas may be the only way to give our neighbors along the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers confidence that you intend to deliver on the federal government's Everglades restoration promises.

We invite you and members of your administration to tour impacted areas and see how this environmental crisis, decades in the making, is devastating our families, neighbors, and communities. Your administration's attention to environmental issues leaves us with no doubt that once you bear witness to the destruction of our once thriving waterways you will be all-in with our efforts to prioritize real solutions.

Even though we lack seniority, we cannot sit back and wait our turn to protect our communities. We think you can appreciate such boldness and desire to break through the polarization and gridlock of Washington. Our residents need our help.

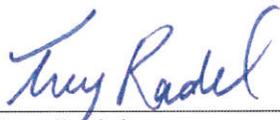
In Congress, we are working to authorize needed projects to relieve the damage caused by the Corps' current handling of the dike system. Projects such as the C-43 West Reservoir, approved in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act recently passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will help alleviate the threat to our beaches and estuaries. To the east, the C-44 project on the St. Lucie River needs funding for the next phase. Once completed, C-44 will alleviate some of the strain Lake Okeechobee discharges have on the local community, economy, and environment. These projects will begin to address the concerns of our neighbors on both coasts of the Sunshine State.

We are also including some letters from young students that were provided to us at our briefing in Washington to help make the point that every corner of our constituents' lives has been affected by the pollution in our rivers.

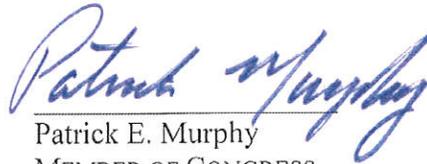
In short, your administration's support for these projects and your attention to Florida's water quality needs are imperative. If you accept our invitation to come see the impacts of the current water management policy in Florida, you will be able to make informed decisions on prioritizing these projects going forward. We will work tirelessly with you to fulfill promises made to Floridians, and we look forward to your active partnership for the people of our state.

We hope you take us up on our offer.

Sincerely,



Trey Radel  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

September 08, 2008

Dear President Obama,

I am disappointed because Lake Okeechobee has toxic algae and all the sea creatures are dying and people are getting sick. Manatees could get sick and even die. Some animals could become endangered. People won't be able to eat fish because we could eat infected fish. Other bodies of water can become infected with toxic algae. We won't be able to swim in the water. So can you please help the Lake President Obama?

Sincerely,

Wilber de Lasso

4 grade

J.D. Parker

September 24, 2013

Dear President Obama,  
I am very terrified to hear  
about the toxic algae that is  
going on at the Indian River  
Lagoon, in Stuart, Florida and  
this is upsetting to me. I would  
like for you to come to Florida  
and help and clean up the  
toxic algae. One way to get  
more money is to that you  
can inform the government.  
You can tell every body to clean  
up the toxic algae.

Sincerely,  
Janessa Kloofain  
4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Mrs. Castillo's class  
J.D. Parker School

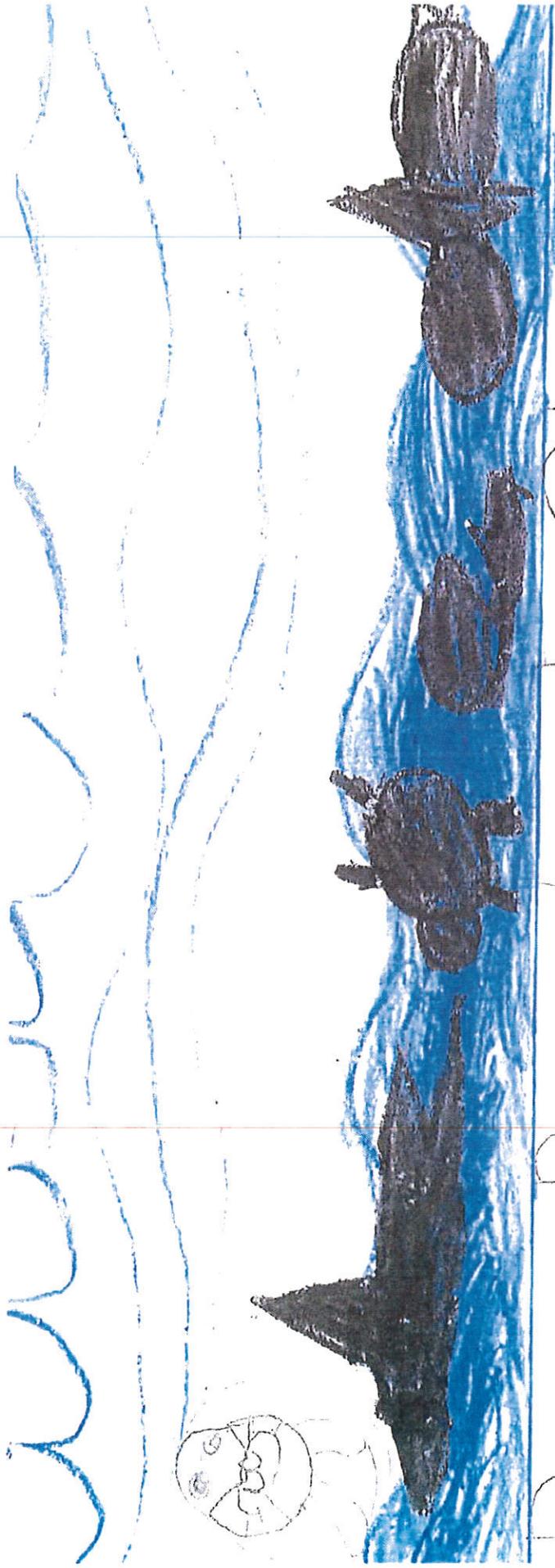


Depp President - James,

Please save fish in our

Indian River Lagoon

The water is polluted



Dear President Obama,

Please help the lagoon

river and please help

the fish and turtles

PATRICK E. MURPHY  
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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September 5, 2013

The Honorable Joe Biden  
The Vice President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing today to request a meeting with you in order to discuss a pressing environmental issue facing my district and the state of Florida. I have pledged to bring this issue to the attention of the highest level of the Administration possible and hope to meet with you personally to discuss this crucial matter.

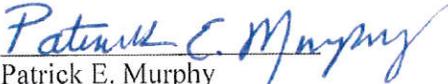
Due to releases from Lake Okeechobee, which is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the St. Lucie River in our district has been inundated with water so high in bacteria levels that local health officials have announced public health warnings, and toxic algae blooms have been confirmed with more being reported every day. This water is also causing deaths of endangered sea-life in the southern Indian River Lagoon, a nationally renowned biologically diverse area, including the deaths of many dolphins and manatees. Beyond the serious risks to public health and ecological damage, this polluted water is causing an economic downturn in an area where water-related business and tourism generates \$840 million annually, and area businesses are reporting serious revenue losses.

The Administration must act to resolve this problem. First, the C-44 reservoir project currently under construction along the St. Lucie, which will provide water storage and treatment, must be fully funded and completed. The Army Corps must also prioritize acting aggressively to move water in Lake Okeechobee south to restore a preferred flow of water that will benefit the Everglades, and finding a way to safely store more water within the lake.

In addition to requesting a meeting with you, I also invite you to a roundtable discussion I am convening to bring officials in Washington and stakeholders from my district together to discuss how dire the situation is in the St. Lucie waterway, and what can be done to address the problem. I invite you to this event to hear more about the impact the pollution has had on my constituents, and work with me to make sure the Administration prioritizes solutions to the pollution that has plagued the region for too long.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I hope to be able to speak to you soon about these serious issues impacting Florida's 18<sup>th</sup> District.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
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ROOM 187  
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34984  
PHONE (772) 336-2877  
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MARTIN COUNTY  
171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE  
STUART, FL 34994  
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