



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

September 27, 2013

Brigadier General Donald E. Jackson
Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division
60 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Brigadier General Donald E. Jackson:

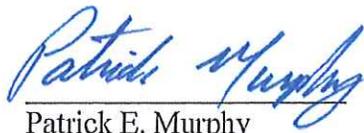
We thank you for your ongoing attention to the issues that Lake Okeechobee releases are having in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee water system. It is our hope your team will work as expeditiously as possible to move water from the Water Conservation Area 3A and allow water to flow south from Lake Okeechobee. We also ask that you reassess within the Lake Okeechobee Release Schedule (LORS) how much water can be safely stored within the lake.

Increasing water storage capacity south of the lake could allow for water to flow from Lake Okeechobee through southern canals instead of through the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers. These rivers and their estuaries have been heavily inundated with fresh water releases from Lake Okeechobee rich in nitrogen and phosphorous which contribute to environmental degradation in the waterways to the east and west of the lake. We encourage both the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service to work to expedite appropriate deviations from the water management plan to move water out of the WCA. As we await the additional water management options that will be made available upon completion of projects like the C-44 and C-43 reservoirs, we urge you to consider moving as much water as possible from Lake Okeechobee through treatment areas into the WCAs and other potential water storage areas south of the lake.

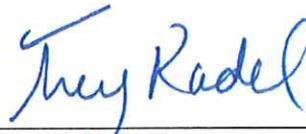
We also urge the Army Corps to reassess how much water can safely be held within the lake after investing over \$300 million in dike repair in the last six years. As the Army Corps has indicated, LORS was created to allow for adjustments, and we believe it is time for the Corps to reevaluate at what level the lake can retain water while balancing public safety with the extreme pollution caused by the discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



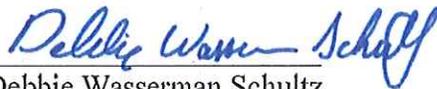
Trey Radel
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Ted Deutch
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Lois Frankel
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Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Joe Garcia
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Cc: Colonel Alan M. Dodd, District Commander, Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District

Eric P. Summa, Chief, Environmental Branch, Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District

Cindy Dohner, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ernie Barnett, Assistant Executive Director, Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, South Florida
Water Management District