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June 29, 2016

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

Toxic, blue-green algae is choking the Indian River Lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River. The algal blooms are wreaking havoc on our nation's most precious ecosystems and significantly threatening public health and safety. Meanwhile, our wildlife, tourism, and small businesses hang in the balance.

When residents and environmental scientists began noticing blue-green algae throughout our ecosystem last month, our community predicted the necessary conditions would present themselves to cause a significant decline in water quality and lead to toxic algae. Regrettably, this disaster has come to pass with harmful algal blooms inundating our waterways and beaches.

Matters are so dire that officials in Martin County called an emergency meeting with residents, and less than 24 hours later, hundreds of residents were lined up to voice their concerns, frustrations, and anger at the lack of state action to address this ongoing crisis.

I stand with Floridians who demand clean water and who have the right to know what is in our waterways. All levels of government should be working together to provide the necessary resources to assist the residents, businesses, and ecosystems impacted by this crisis.

I join the Martin County Board of County Commissioners in requesting an emergency declaration from the State of Florida and urge you to view the situation firsthand. As the region's representative to the federal government, I will continue to fight for federal assistance and a sustained commitment to ultimately move more clean water south to provide relief to local waterways.

Sincerely,


Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS