



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA
The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920



March 7, 2017

Dear Member of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment & Natural Resources:

On behalf of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), a state trade association representing a broad spectrum of industry, and the Florida H2O Coalition, we are writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 10, *Relating to Water Resources*, due to the detrimental impact it will have on some in Florida's business community.

We fully believe that promoting a healthy environment of both Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades in a comprehensive approach should continue to be a priority of our state. We were early supporters of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and we fully believe the projects outlined in this science based approach should be completed before additional projects are brought online. We believe the funding necessary for SB 10 will jeopardize funding for these critical projects.

In addition, we believe that to truly clean up the lake, and thus reduce or eliminate polluted water from being discharged, we must reduce or eliminate the water coming into the lake from the north. We believe this can be done in an efficient, and less costly, combination of deep injection wells and storage north of the lake. We also believe that a remediation plan for aging and malfunctioning septic tanks around Lake Okeechobee and the Indian River Lagoon is crucial to helping solve the problem.

Moreover, AIF and the H2O Coalition stands in firm opposition of taking important agricultural lands south of Lake Okeechobee out of production. We believe that these lands, the jobs they sustain and families that rely on them, are extremely important for the region and the state's agricultural industry.

For the above reasons, we respectfully opposes SB 10, *Relating to Water Resources*. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss our concerns in greater detail. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brewster Bevis
Senior Vice President
State & Federal Affairs