



DAILY BRIEF

From March 8, 2017

ENVIRONMENT

SB 10-Relating to Water Resources

On Wednesday, March 8th, **SB 10**, by **Senator Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)** was heard in the **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources** and passed by a vote of 5 yeas to 1 nay. **AIF's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis, spoke in opposition to this bill.**

This bill authorizes the purchase of approximately 60,000 acres of land below Lake Okeechobee and the construction of a reservoir near the lake to attempt to remedy the pollution flowing East and West of the lake.

SB 10 will go to the full **Senate Committee on Appropriations** next.

AIF OPPOSES this legislation as we do not believe that simply buying the land below Lake Okeechobee will ratify this long-term issue.

Below is a statement from Brewster Bevis on today's committee hearing of SB 10:

Statement from AIF's H2O Coalition Regarding the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources' Passage of SB 10

Tallahassee, Fla.—Associated Industries of Florida's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs Brewster Bevis released the following statement regarding the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources' passage of Senate Bill 10:

"During today's debate on Senate Bill 10, it was abundantly clear from objections raised by members that the bill remains seriously flawed. Despite the amendment to the bill, it still spends billions on a plan that is not proven to adequately address the local water quality issues in coastal communities.

"It also has a negative economic impact on the communities south of Lake Okeechobee according to the bill's own cost estimate, which says, 'converting the agricultural land to a reservoir will have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact to the sugar mills and local farmers due to the reduction in available farmland.'

"An independent analysis from the James Madison Institute confirms this showing the bill will cost Florida 4,000 jobs and \$700 million. At a time when the Florida Legislature has been focused on job creation, the last thing we need is a job killer of this magnitude.

"The Senate should follow the science showing storage is needed at the source of entry to the north of Lake Okeechobee before buying additional land to the south."

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