

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2009

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson
United State Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

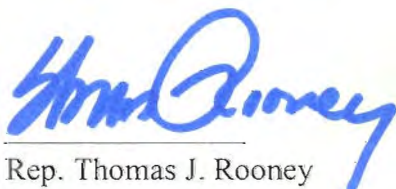
As members of the Florida delegation, we are writing today regarding the proposed EPA numeric nutrient rules for our state. While we all value the health of our waterways, this regulatory change will also have economic impacts on the state, and thus it is important that the standards are based on the best available science.


As we are sure you are aware, Florida has spent several years working with the EPA and over \$19 million to collect the necessary data, sound science and community input in developing numeric criteria under the Clean Water Act. We were encouraged to read in your January 14th letter that said the EPA planned to “work closely and collaboratively with the State of Florida to ensure that these numeric nutrient criteria are protective of applicable designated uses, based on sound scientific rationale, responsive to the specific needs of Florida's waters, responsive to available public and stakeholder input, and sufficient to meet the needs of the State's complete suite of water quality management tools.” We respectfully ask that as you finalize the proposed rules for the state you work with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection in an open, collaborative manner and utilize its extensive resources of science and data on this issue.

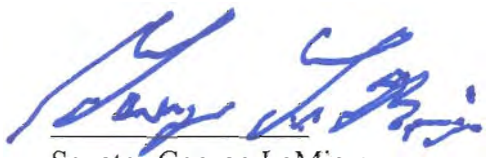
To date, the Florida Nutrient Technical Advisory Committee has met 22 times to openly evaluate and consider the data with industry input from manufacturing to agriculture. This is an excellent model that we strongly encourage you to consider using as you move through this process. The proposed rule will have a widespread effect on Florida's industry and economy, and all concerned parties should be heard.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. As you can imagine, this is a very important issue to our state. Florida will be the first state subject to such federal rules, so it is essential that the water quality standards are based on sound science and that all parties concerned have an opportunity to be heard.

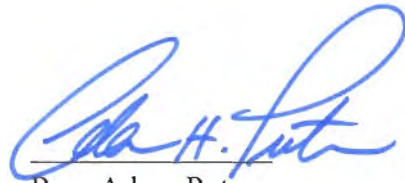
Sincerely,


Rep. Thomas J. Rooney

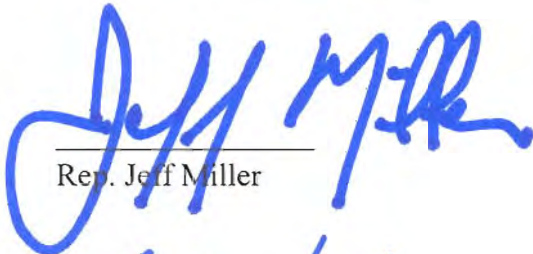

Senator Bill Nelson



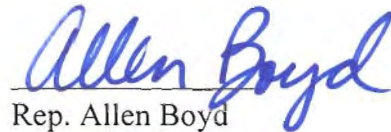
Senator George LeMieux



Rep. Adam Putnam



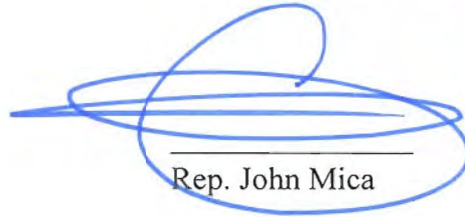
Rep. Jeff Miller



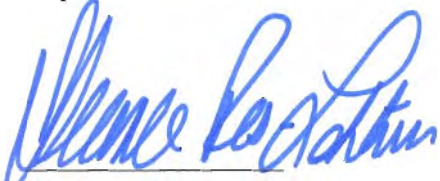
Rep. Allen Boyd



Rep. Kendrick Meek



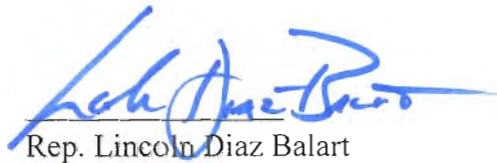
Rep. John Mica



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



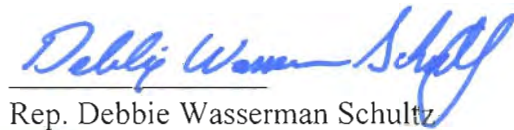
Rep. Ginny Brown Waite



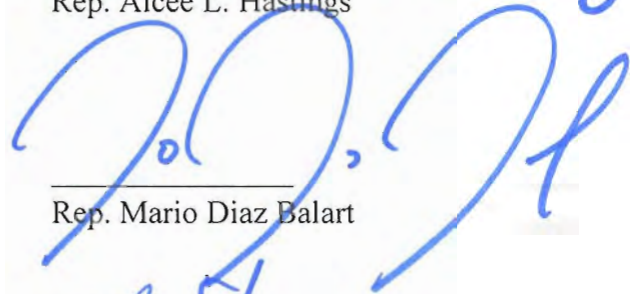
Rep. Lincoln Diaz Balart



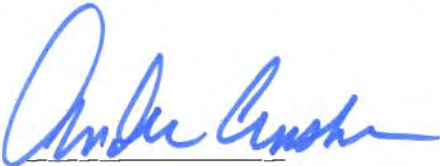
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings



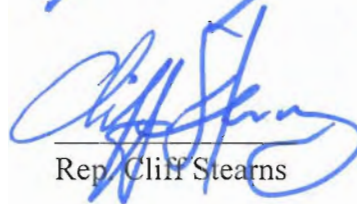
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz



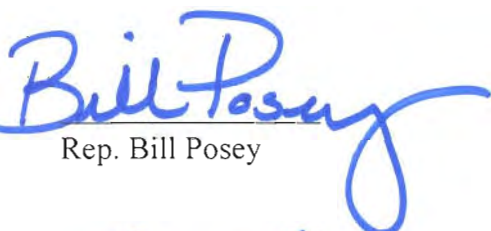
Rep. Mario Diaz Balart



Rep. Ander Crenshaw



Rep. Cliff Stearns



Rep. Bill Posey




Rep. Vern Buchanan



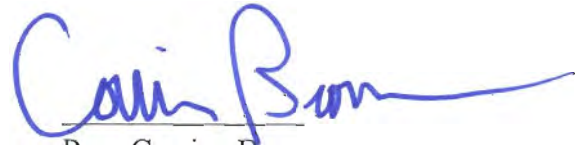
Rep. Connie Mack IV



Rep. Suzanne Kosmas



Rep. Gus Bilirakis



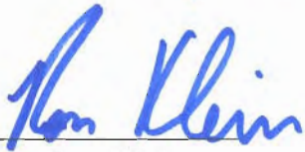
Rep. Corrine Brown



Rep. C.W. Bill Young



Rep. Alan Grayson



Rep. Ron Klein