



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

We write to ask that you bring the America's Water Infrastructure Act, also referred as the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), for a vote in the Senate as soon as possible. Communities in South Florida are under siege by massive algal blooms spreading from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers. The Senate bill includes an important project, the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir, which would help to mitigate future environmental and human health impacts of lake discharges.

Currently, the bill awaits full Senate consideration while Floridians are enduring an environmental and economic crisis caused by these pervasive, toxic algae blooms. We have a responsibility to our constituents to pass this legislation as quickly as possible.

The EAA Storage Reservoir is a critical piece of the puzzle for ending Lake Okeechobee discharges and the harmful algal blooms they help fuel. We urge you to bring the WRDA bill to the Senate floor as soon as possible so that we can advance this key project. Thank you for your consideration of this time-sensitive request.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio