Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy and Lieutenant General Bostick:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin. We are very disappointed that this latest plan falls short of fixing the long-running failure of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to properly operate the dams and reservoirs along the ACF river basin. The Corps' recommended changes will do nothing to protect the health of the full ACF system.

After years of being shortchanged from the freshwater it needs, the Apalachicola Bay's oyster population totally collapsed in 2012. Now, many more Bay residents may lose their way of life, including livelihoods and recreational activities that have been passed down for generations.

Historically, Apalachicola Bay has been one of the most productive estuaries in the Northern Hemisphere, supporting numerous species of oysters, shrimp, crab, grouper, snapper, redfish, and baitfish. The sustainability of these species is at risk due to the persistent salinity levels and nutrients flowing from Apalachicola Bay into the Gulf of Mexico.

As representatives of Floridians across the state, we are deeply troubled by the Corps' consistent mismanagement of this shared resource. We strongly urge you to reconsider the proposals in the draft EIS and to remedy them in the final version.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

Marco Rubio

Gwen Graham

Vern Buchanan

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Corrine Brown

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

FL-6

Alan Grayson, M.C.

FL-3

FL-23

FL-22

FL-01

FL-15

Patrick Murphy

Frederica S. Wilson

Kathy Castor

Rob Carter