



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

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Open Letter to Members of Florida's Congressional Delegation and State Elected Officials

On behalf of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) and its 10,000 member companies across the state of Florida, we urge our Florida congressional delegation members and state elected officials to oppose the current numeric nutrient criteria currently being proposed by the federal government and request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establish these standards using approved science-driven and timely efforts.

Florida is facing a water crisis. Without water there is no development, no growth, no environmental protection, and no economic rebound for the state of Florida. For the last several years AIF has been working on funding alternative water supply programs to help our state's water problems. But now on top of the funding problems we have a new crisis ... numeric nutrient criteria that are completely unachievable.

The EPA has singled Florida out to change how we determine water quality, which is no way to treat a state that has been a long-time leader on improving water quality. The EPA is using standards that are not based on science, but rather developed to deal with a lawsuit filed by radical environmental organizations.

If the new numeric nutrient criteria are adopted, many companies will not come to Florida because it will be too expensive for them to operate. North Florida and the Panhandle should be prepared! Why should a company invest in Florida when they can move their business a few miles away to Georgia or Alabama where these unachievable and costly new regulations do not exist? Florida will be placed at a significant competitive disadvantage when it comes to economic development and attraction of new capital.

The state of Florida should continue to be allowed to set its own water quality standards using existing scientific procedures.

Sincerely,

Barney T. Bishop III
President & Chief Executive Officer