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NEWS RELEASE
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MANUFACTURERS OPPOSE FEDERAL MANDATES

Tallahassee, FL—In January 2009 the U.S. EPA Administrator issued a letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requiring FDEP to adopt numeric nutrient criteria standards for lakes and streams by January 2010 and for coastal waters by January 2011 or EPA would establish federal criteria for the state. Florida has been singled out from all the other states with such deadlines and federal oversight.

Florida has been undergoing a systematic science-driven process to establish total maximum daily loads for water bodies in the state. That process is ongoing through the FDEP. The Manufacturers Association of Florida supports efforts to protect Florida's water quality, but believes that the state should be allowed to complete its systematic process.

It makes no sense to establish federal water quality standards in Florida that are unattainable and with little or no benefit to the natural resources. Environmental agencies and businesses must work together for reasonably achievable water quality standards that are science based and will not drive responsible businesses to other states.

Manufacturers Association of Florida was formed in 2006 to improve the business climate for manufacturers in Florida. There are some 14,181 manufacturers in Florida employing 329,000 people. Manufacturing sectors include: aerospace/aviation, marine, food, medical devices, chemical, mining, electronics, defense, machine shops, forest products and more.

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