

COTI BOARD MEMBERS:

I am forwarding this message which I received from SCCF today in case you are not on their mailing list. This fertilizer bill is moving along quickly and will probably be acted on in the next few days i.e. before our next meeting. Thus, you may wish to respond to Erick Lindblad's request individually. John



Action Needed on Proposed Fertilizer Bill in Tallahassee

~~~~~

A very bad fertilizer bill is moving quickly in Tallahassee and we need your letters to ask them to kill the bill. The bill is on the schedule for discussion by the House Environment and Natural Resources Council today, Wednesday, and the Senate Agricultural Committee on Thursday. On the House side it is sponsored by Bryan Nelson who has been trying to push preemptions on local governments. On the Senate side it is sponsored by Dave Aronberg. We believe that working with Senator Aronberg we can have an impact in killing it. Here are the issues:

**Findings:** The bills legislative findings state that the model fertilizer use ordinance contained in the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Final Report to the 2008 Florida Legislature, dated January 15, 2008 is protective of the quality of water in the state's water bodies". This is in fact not true. A specific example is the recommended application rates for phosphorus. The rates exceed the Lake Okeechobee restoration target levels by **95 times**.

**Preemption:** The bills include two forms of preemption to local governments wanting to develop stricter language to address local water quality issues. The House bill currently back dates the qualification dates for local governments to adopt ordinances to this past January 15, 2008. The second includes a suite of criteria that require demonstration of impaired and degraded waters in order to local governments to qualify for adoption of a stricter ordinance. Florida is not a one size fits all state. Local governments should be free to tailor their own ordinances to address local issues, especially fertilizer formulations and application periods and schedules to suit their soil types, topography and water quality restoration needs. **This bill limits local government's right to protect their waters from becoming degraded or from taking responsible action to restore water quality.**

**Change from the State Task Force Recommendations:** The qualification criteria,

adoption date and requirement of model ordinance adoption are changes from the recommendations of the Task Force that will not improve

We are asking everyone to write a letter, sample included below, to members of the House and Senate Committees on Environment and Agriculture in opposition to the poorly named **Protection of Urban and Residential Environments and Water Act**, SB 2352 and HB1267. Key contact information is listed below

Dear Senator (Representative);

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1267 and SB 2352. This legislation will in fact preempt local governments from adopting fertilizer ordinances needed to protect and improve water quality, the House bill back dates adoption to this past January, 2008, the model ordinance is based on nutrient loading rates that exceed levels needed to improve water quality and requires all communities adopt the model ordinance that will degrade water quality. This bill needs to be stopped to protect our water quality.

We request that you work to stop these bad bills to protect Florida's most important natural resource.

Sincerely,

## CONTACT INFORMATION

NOTE: The Senate contacts are e-mail addresses; the House contacts are e-mail forms that you can fill out and cut-and-paste the message into.

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Chair: Senator JD Alexander (R)  
[alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov)

Vice Chair: Senator Larcenia J. Bullard (D)  
[bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov)

Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation  
Chair: Senator Burt Saunders (R)  
[saunders.burt.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:saunders.burt.web@flsenate.gov)

Vice Chair: Senator Nan H. Rich (D)  
[rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov)

Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight

Alternating Chair: Senator Dave Aronberg (D)  
[aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov)

House Committee on Environmental Protection  
Chair: Trudi K. Williams (R)  
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/emailrepresentative.aspx?MemberId=4338&SessionId=57>

Vice Chair: Baxter Troutman (R)  
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/emailrepresentative.aspx?MemberId=4259&SessionId=57>

House Committee on Agribusiness  
Chair: Denise Grimsley (R)  
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/emailrepresentative.aspx?MemberId=4345&SessionId=57>

Vice Chair: Bryan Nelson (R)  
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/emailrepresentative.aspx?MemberId=4362&SessionId=57>

**Contact Information**

~~~~~

Erick Lindblad
Phone: 239/472-2329

~~~~~