



Take Action Now on SB 712/Clean Waterways Act

Take Action on Senate Bill 712

Tomorrow the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee will be voting on **Senate Bill 712** known as the “Clean Water Ways Act”. We appreciate the Senate’s focus on the much needed and important water quality legislation in **Senate Bill 712**. While those improvements are a step in the right direction, Florida’s economy and quality of life depend on strong water quality protections to restore Florida’s most critical resource, water. We ask legislators to take this opportunity to address loopholes in the current bill language.



In the following Whereas clause, the bill establishes that agricultural runoff is a major contributor to nitrogen and phosphorus pollution:

“WHEREAS, the agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the excess delivery of nutrients to surface waters throughout this state and has been identified as the dominant source of both phosphorus and nitrogen within the Lake Okeechobee watershed and a number of other basin management action plan areas”.

But the bill does not require landowners to implement remediation plans if their Best Management Practices (BMP’s) do not prevent pollution. Since the most cost effective and efficient method for protecting and improving water quality is addressing pollution at its source **we ask the legislature to address a fundamental loophole to require nutrient reduction limits and remediation plans if BMPs are not achieving targets.**

- While achieving 100% participation in BMPs is a valid goal, it is only effective if landowners are required to take timely action to monitor and reduce their polluted runoff. **We ask that agricultural nutrient reductions and remediation plans be required to ensure timely actions are implemented to reduce polluted agricultural runoff.**
- **We also suggest implementing stronger tracking, reporting, monitoring and oversight to all classes of land applied biosolids and banning their application** in Outstanding Florida Waterway watersheds to ensure that they do not contribute to water quality degradation.

Please take action today before tomorrow’s 9 am meeting using the “Take Action” link below to contact the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Ask them to support stronger pollution protections for Florida waterways.

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