

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure drafts a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), we urge you to address an issue of tremendous economic and environmental consequence to the State of Florida.

We believe that the Army Corps of Engineers is overstepping its authority by reallocating water from Georgia's Lake Lanier to Atlanta's metropolitan area without proper Congressional oversight. By diverting this limited resource, the Corps is reducing the freshwater flow down the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River System and, thereby, preventing an adequate water supply from reaching the Apalachicola River Basin and Bay in the Florida panhandle.

Historically, Apalachicola Bay has provided more than 90 percent of Florida's oysters harvest and nearly 10 percent of the nation's oyster supply, serving as a major economic driver for the state. The low flows from the ACF system have decimated the local oyster fishery and, by extension, Apalachicola and the surrounding North Florida region that depend upon the industry's success.

We are hopeful that you will work closely with our delegation, specifically the six Florida members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to ensure that a legislative solution is included in the Water Resources Development Act. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this critically important issue for our state and region.

Sincerely,



Steve Southerland, II (FL-02)
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown (FL-05)
Member of Congress

John L. Mica (FL-07)
Member of Congress

C. W. Bill Young (FL-13)
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw (FL-04)
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27)
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller (FL-01)
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan (FL-16)
Member of Congress

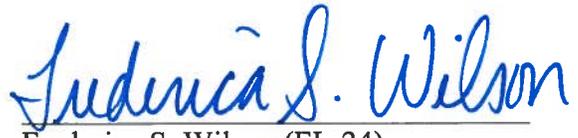
Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)
Member of Congress

Dennis A. Ross (FL-15)
Member of Congress

Thomas J. Rooney (FL-17)
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor (FL-14)
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24)
Member of Congress



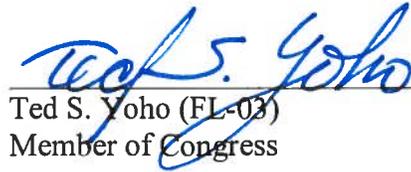
Bill Posey (FL-08)
Member of Congress



Richard B. Nugent (FL-11)
Member of Congress



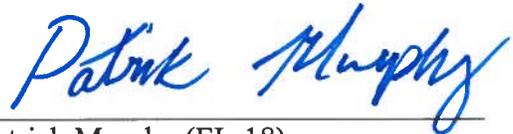
Theodore E. Deutch (FL-21)
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho (FL-03)
Member of Congress



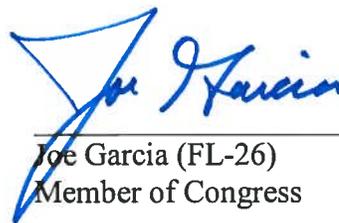
Trey Radel (FL-19)
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy (FL-18)
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis (FL-06)
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia (FL-26)
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson (FL-09)
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel (FL-22)
Member of Congress