

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: Brian May <bmay@mapwise.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Subject: Water Quality Public Comments

Hello,

I would like to comment on water quality issues.

I live in Palm City, FL less than 1 mile from the St Lucie River.

I'm very concerned about cyanobacteria in the water and the air we breathe. When the blue-green algae blooms are strong, we can smell it in the air when you are close to the river. What about what you can't smell? More research is needed about the effects of airborne toxins put off from blue-green algae. Are we going to find out 15 to 20 years down the road - "oh yeah, if you lived by the polluted river in the 2000s and 2010s, went boating in it, fished it in, swam in it, good chance you might get cancer - oh well!

In 2019, we finally got relief from the Lake Okeechobee discharges and therefore did not have massive algae blooms in the St Lucie River. And it was such a relief! I think its absolutely ridiculous that we have had these algae blooms to begin with. Choosing the needs of agriculture (mainly sugar) over people and the environment is stupid. I'm sure the dumpings will start again whenever we get too much rain though - and then the same old "here we go again...". And the debates start happening

- who's to blame? And then comes the disinformation from agricultural interests and politicians that support them, etc etc. Its a broken record. People have known about these issues and what to do about it for decades. Its not rocket science.

I feel like we are living through another major pollution era - in this case mainly agriculturally generated pollution. Personally we are getting tired of this and are strongly considering moving out of the area to a cleaner environment - potentially out of state. I'm 50 and lived in Florida all my life and never entertained the idea of leaving the state, but this is a major reason to do so. Republican leadership at the state level for the past 19 years has only made things worse. No leadership on environmental issues - the opposite. Like the environment we all inhabit doesn't matter. People seem really concerned about "the economy" though. Well guess what, not many people want to live in a sewer no matter how much you money make.

Bottom line is I urge the state government to get serious about greatly reducing environmental pollution of all forms to protect the health of people and wildlife. The pendulum has swung way too far to favor big corporations who will not "self-regulate." The pendulum has to swing back to listening to scientists who study these issues for years, have answers on what to do, have answers on what to regulate, etc. And government has to get back to actually doing something about improvement the environment. Small things are happening now - but this has to be a much bigger push. If that doesn't happen, more and more people will start realizing that the Florida lifestyle is just a pipe dream and stop visiting and leave for good.

Brian May

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