

November 20, 2019

Kaitlyn Sutton

Water Quality Standards Program Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Common Wealth Boulevard

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Kaitlyn.Sutton@FLORIDADEP.gov

RE: Triennial Review of Florida's Water Quality Standards

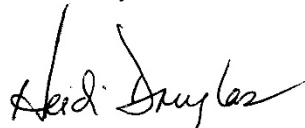
Dear Ms. Sutton:

On behalf of my husband Joel and me, I am writing to you to urge the state to set limits for toxic algae in Florida's lakes, rivers, springs, and estuaries – waterways that experience some of the nation most debilitating blooms. We implore you to establish legal limits for cyanotoxins, standards that will help to trigger public notifications when blooms are dangerous, promote long-term planning to curtail causative pollution, and change water-management practices contributing to outbreaks.

As permanent residents and boaters, we are keenly aware of the devastating effect that blooms have on our beautiful Caloosahatchee, Estero, and Naples bays, rivers, and estuaries. Last year, we purchased our dock at Hickory Bay Boat Club in Bonita Springs from a charter fishing captain forced to leave the area to preserve his economic livelihood. Not only is the impact of algal blooms financial, measured in hundreds of millions of dollars to local economies, algae produce harmful cyanotoxins posing severe health risks to people and wildlife.

Thank you for taking the actions necessary to protect our environment, our local economies, and our people from the noxious consequences of toxic algae blooms.

Sincerely,



Heidi S. Douglas

13030 Bridgeford Avenue

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

heidisdouglas@yahoo.com

860.961.8052 mobile