

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: MARY WATSON <mary-watson@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Subject: toxic algae

Dear Ms. Sutton,

I am writing to comment on unsafe toxic algal blooms in our waterways and especially the alarming levels of microcystin which results from this: up to 60 times any safe level for human contact. (495 ppb)

I attended recently a meeting at the South Florida Water Management District where many citizens and scientists spoke. Among them was a woman holding one of the few domestic pet dogs to survive being exposed to this water after being rushed to her vet. Both she and her surviving dog received resounding prolonged applause and support to limit this danger to ourselves and our pets.

We have been told for many years that the financial interests of big sugar and agriculture are paramount to our community. Now this has reached the level that lack of effective regulation is killing pets who contact our toxic water, decimating our fishing industries, maiming our tourist economy, and contributing to liver disease and is associated with ALS. This is clearly unsafe, is a threat to human health, and the economy of our state.

This is can no longer be labeled a political talking point. The environment necessary to life is apolitical. I am a Democrat writing at the request of Brian Mast, a Republican. As a Registered Nurse I find it appalling that more regulatory action has not been taken. The CDC is finally looking into these matters.

This is YOUR mission statement. Please act accordingly and give us the safe environment that is necessary for human health as well as the economy. We have been dumping a toxic level of nutrients and herbicides into Lake Okeechobee for many years. Just last night on cbs news the results of this were shown with fish having very large ugly tumors. That is no advertisement for Florida and it is chilling to think that our children are being exposed to these same toxic nutrients. It is way past time to act and regulate for safety. For human health, and economic health. Not to act is no longer an option.

Sincerely,
Mary Watson BSN