

Dept. of Environmental Protection

May 5, 2021

Tallahassee, FL

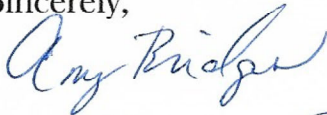
Subject: Cayo Costa State Park

My name is Amy Bridges and my late husband and I have owned property on Pejuan Point since the 1970's. I am now 91 years old and care just as much about protecting this beautiful island park as I ever did. When my husband and I used to visit there were few houses along Pejuan Shores and only a few inside along the narrows. All of the families who have houses on the south end have remained friends over the years and have followed what has been happening with the DEP commercializing the south end of Cayo Costa.

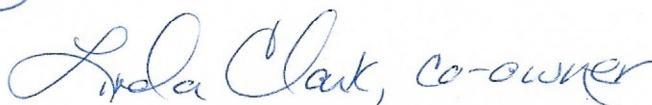
My daughter Linda and her family visit the island and I hope to go there again soon. Linda tells me how it has changed, and not for the better. The number of boaters has increased with the growth of our population and it continues to grow more each day. Now the state rebuilt a dock that was destroyed during the 2004 Charley hurricane and is allowing thousands of people each month to come in on large ferry boats that plow up the narrow channel by our point. This channel is not made for large boats! This end of the island should be off limits to big ferry boats since the land, channel and beach are so susceptible to erosion and storm surge. During ETA last fall Pejuan Point was under water. This end of the island is rapidly disappearing.

The park staff does not protect the south end of Cayo Costa. We have Calusa Indian Mounds there and they should be protected. We ask that you listen to the people who are working to have these big boats taken away from the south end and take them up to the big docks where they have a safer and better island experience. I appreciate you considering my letter and want the best for the future of Cayo Costa.

Sincerely,



Amy Bridges



Orlando, FL

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