It doesn’t matter where you live in Florida, or where you stand politically, because we have reached a critical stage where everything is at stake – our economy, our health and our environment.

“Everyone in Florida relies on clean water. People visit Florida and choose it for their home because of the beautiful environment – the entire economy is driven by the environment.”

– Henley Shotwell, Florida business owner, fisherman and concerned citizen

Action Steps to Support SB10 & HB761

• Call or email your legislators today - Find them at flsenate.gov/senators/find or myfloridahouse.gov
• Spread the word on social media using #SendCleanWaterSouth
• Email info@evergladescoalition to sign up for important updates

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS MARCH 7, 2017
The Problem

The discharge of water from Lake Okeechobee impacts Florida’s economy, health and environment.

- Harmful algae blooms and red tide caused by nutrient pollution infect estuaries and coastal waterways
- Residents and visitors experience the health impacts of algae blooms and red tide, including respiratory issues, skin irritation and nausea
- Residents and visitors witness wildlife death toll, including massive fish kills and manatee deaths, due to harmful blue-green algae
- Gov. Scott declared a state of emergency in four Florida counties for 242 days in 2016
- National news coverage about the fallout harms the Florida brand statewide
- Documented economic impacts, particularly in tourism, real estate and sport fishing industries
- Releases kill off juvenile oyster beds and seagrasses, which serve as nursery, feeding and shelter areas for marine life including manatees

The Solution

Protect Florida’s Economy - Support SB10 and HB761 REDUCE HARMFUL LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCHARGES

- Authorizes the use of available funds to purchase land for water storage and treatment south of Lake Okeechobee to reduce harmful discharges by nearly 50%
- More naturally mimics water flow of the historic Everglades and improves conditions in Florida Bay
- Provides an alternative source of water to reduce competition for water supply and benefits Florida businesses
- Protects the ecosystem and fisheries of Lake Okeechobee by creating more natural water level changes
- Creates recreational opportunities for tourism – fishing, hunting and bird watching
- Uses funds from Florida’s Land Acquisition Trust Fund, which was overwhelmingly backed by Florida voters to support this critical project with money that is already dedicated for the Everglades
- Supported by the vast majority of scientists and experts
- Creates temporary and permanent jobs in the Glades and protects jobs throughout Florida

KEY

A Estuaries negatively impacted by Lake Okeechobee discharges now
B New flow possible with southern storage in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)
C New flow more naturally mimics historic Everglades and reduces the high salinity conditions in Florida Bay

“*The solution will require additional land between the lake and the Everglades Protective Area.*”
– University of Florida Water Institute Study

LEARN MORE:
evergladescoalition.org