

# THESE ARE FLORIDA WATERS



## THIS IS THEIR DESTRUCTION

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](http://flsenate.gov/senators/find) or [myfloridahouse.gov](http://myfloridahouse.gov)
- Spread the word on social media using **#SendCleanWaterSouth**
- Email [info@evergladescoalition](mailto:info@evergladescoalition) to sign up for important updates

**THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS MARCH 7, 2017**

## LET FACTS UNITE US

According to research produced in part by the University of Florida... **Over half of possible visitors to Florida are concerned enough by the spread of harmful algae blooms to delay or alter their travel plans.\***

**1.2  
Million**

Number of Florida jobs that depend on tourism\*\*

**\$1 Billion**

Decrease in property values in Lee and Martin counties attributed to water quality\*\*\*

**\$4 Billion**

Economic impact of the marine industries in the four counties that were declared in a state of emergency for 242 days in 2016\*\*\*\*

**37,000**

Employees in the marine industries impacted by the four-county 242-day state of emergency in 2016\*\*\*\*

**61%**



Hotels in the Greater Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel & Captiva Islands area reporting cancellations or guests leaving early because of the water issue.\*\*\*\*

\*2016 study by Black Hills State University and the University of Florida's Tourism Crisis Management Initiative

\*\*Employment data from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (as reported by Visit Florida)

\*\*\*2015 study by the Florida Realtors' Association

\*\*\*\*Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce 2013 Survey

\*\*\*\*\*Economic Contributions of Marine Industries in Southwest Florida, Indian River Lagoon Valuation Update, and Economic Impact of the Recreational Marine Industry in South Florida

# LET WATER UNITE US

## SUPPORT SENATE BILL 10 AND HOUSE BILL 761

### 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

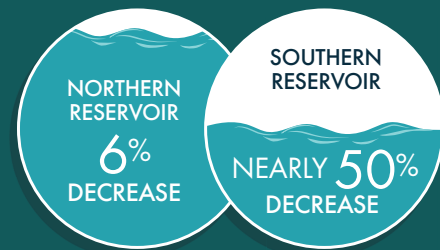
#### REDUCE HARMFUL LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCHARGES

- 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:**  
[evergladescollection.org](http://evergladescollection.org)