



May 23, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota County has an over 50-year history of working with county government and local stakeholders to promote responsible stewardship over our natural resources. In that time we have served on the county's planning commission and advisory boards, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council.

The Myakka River, its watershed and its surrounding state park are particular gems within southwest Florida. The area sustains abundant wildlife, cleans water that flows into our aquifers and bays, and supports our local economy by providing opportunities for ecotourism. These lands and the river are critically important to our environment, our way of life, and our economy.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation will benefit the Myakka River by fostering a collaborative approach to river management, allowing local communities to protect the river with support from the National Park Service.

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota County support the federal Wild and Scenic River designation for our beautiful Myakka River.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vilja Johnson, Co-President  
League of Women Voters of Sarasota County

Rhonda Peters, Co-President,  
League of Women Voters of Sarasota County