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Good Trouble at Alligator Auschwitz!

By Chris Proia

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Last week, I joined fellow advocates at a press conference demanding the immediate shutdown of Florida's newest shame: the so-called "Alligator Alcatraz." This facility, built hastily in a fragile section of the Everglades, is nothing short of a concentration camp. The human rights violations occurring behind its barbed wire are matched only by the environmental devastation it inflicts on one of our nation's most critical ecosystems.

As a native resident of Lee County, Florida, and a former candidate for State Senate District 33, I am appalled and embarrassed that our state government—rather than standing up for justice—has chosen to appease a tyrannical president by opening this sham facility. The people held here are not violent criminals, but hotel and farm workers—many arrested improperly—just trying to survive. This is not law enforcement; this is performative cruelty.

I call it "Alligator Auschwitz" because that's where it's headed if we don't demand oversight and access. When a government operates in secrecy, detaining people without transparency or accountability, history warns us of the consequences.

The governor did not consult with communities, environmental scientists, or legal experts. Instead, he handed lucrative contracts to mega-donors and political cronies. This isn't governance—it's graft.

We showed up to speak truth to power and call this what it is: a stain on Florida's conscience. The time to shut it down is now.