



THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



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Right to Clean and Healthy Waters

As Southwest Floridians, we rely upon our waters for a multitude of features. Of course, we need clean drinking water. Safe drinking water for everyone regardless of your socio-economic status, location of residence or type of water delivery system you can access should be a right...a fundamental right. We also need/want clean and healthy waterways. Waterways that allow for safe fishing, swimming and recreational use should be a right...a fundamental right. For the past several years those with residence history here have witnessed the degradation of our environment. Attempts to protect and restore our waterways have resulted in frustration and a continual degradation of our waters.

Persistent red tides, blue-green algae blooms, fecal bacteria contaminating thousands of miles of rivers and streams, 80% of our 1,000 springs impaired, tens of thousands of acres of seagrass done in by pollution: our environmental regulatory system isn't working.

Creating a fundamental Right to Clean and Health Waters fixes a systemic flaw in our current system. We must stop the pervasive special interests that influence Florida's water policies that permit the further impairment of our waterways. Increasingly, outbreaks of Red Tide and Blue Green algae remind us that the real solution to business and economic interests lies in protecting and cleaning up our waters. The mutual goals of ensuring environmental stewardship with business and economic growth cannot be sustained long-term under the current laws and regulations. We need a constitutional amendment

that would grant all Floridians a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. Only then will special interests, politicians and others be compelled to help restore and replenish the waters that we dearly love.



Help us get this right to clean and healthy waters. Go to FloridaRightToCleanWater.org to read the full text of the amendment. Sign the petition. Have your neighbors sign the petition. Have your neighbors' neighbors sign the petition. Become an ambassador in the drive to give us all a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. Help us with gathering petitions! Everyone can do something to help. Become part of the solution to our impaired waters. Contact Mary Kay at mkkralapp@gmail.com if you want to become involved. Help with the upcoming petition drive is: July 4th, Fort Myers.