



**FloridaRealtors®**

The Voice for Real Estate® in Florida

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August 24, 2018

**ATTN: Honorable Marco Rubio**  
**United States Senate**  
**284 Russell Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of more than 185,000 REALTORS in Florida, represented by 54 local REALTOR boards, we write to lend our strong support for this year's Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) package, S. 2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This legislation includes funding authorization for critical pieces of the Central Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) which will help address the blue green algae blooms contaminating Florida's waterways and beaches.

The algae blooms are creating an environmental disaster that is causing difficulties for constituents in our great state. These blooms are hurting local economies, impacting housing markets, and causing health concern for numerous Floridians. The crisis is real, and we need your help to prevent it from growing.

If the WRDA legislation is brought to the U.S. Senate floor, and ultimately passed, it would assist with the algae crisis by advancing the planning, design, and construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir project. This project will significantly increase water manager's capacity to divert damaging discharges away from the coasts for storage, treatment, and release into the Everglades.



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As you and many of your colleagues know, the solution to America's largest environmental restoration plan does not hinge on one specific project. However, the passage of WRDA is a key piece of a larger initiative to bring normalcy to Florida's citizens and the businesses that line the impacted waters. The WRDA bill needs to be brought to a vote in the U.S. Senate to provide Florida with access to the additional federal resources needed to help solve this crisis. We stand ready to assist you in any way possible to make this happen.

The State of Florida has recently established a dedicated funding source to pay its portion of CERP. Now we need your help to spur Congress into action on WRDA bill. This bill has the capacity to provide relief for millions of Floridians and their communities, and we look forward to your support in achieving its passage.

Sincerely,



Christine Hansen, CIPS, CRB, GRI  
2018 Florida Realtors® President

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