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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0918**

January 27, 2020

Colonel Andrew Kelly  
Jacksonville District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Colonel Kelly,

As you know, discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the communities I serve in Congress pose substantial public health risks. The water discharged from the lake by the Army Corps routinely tests many times more toxic than the Environmental Protection Agency has determined is safe for human contact. Nonetheless, under the current lake regulation schedule (LORS), the federal government has chosen to poison Floridians nearly every year.

As part of the Conceptual Plan Phase for the development of a new regulation schedule (LOSOM), the Army Corps and South Florida Water Management District presented modeling data proving that it was possible to eliminate regulatory discharges to the St. Lucie within the operational band while at the same time improving performance for water supply and the other Congressionally-authorized project purposes.

Therefore, as the Project Delivery Team (PDT) transitions into Iteration 1 and begins to consider which strategies to utilize from the many modeled plans, I am writing to urge you to test applying the "4C-1" strategy (eliminating regulatory discharges to the St. Lucie) to all other plans in Iteration 1. In fact, I think it would be unconscionable if the Army Corps selected a final plan that does not eliminate regulatory discharges to the St. Lucie given that the Army Corps' own modeling proves it is not only possible but actually beneficial to other Congressionally-authorized project purposes.

We have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to solve a debilitating public health crisis. The Army Corps must not settle for incremental progress but rather should take the bold action needed to protect Floridians and stop government-sanctioned poisoning. I appreciate your dedication to solving this issue and look forward to continuing to work with the Project Delivery Team and staff at the Army Corps to deliver results.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

CC: Timothy Gysan, Senior Project Manager