

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

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chair  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

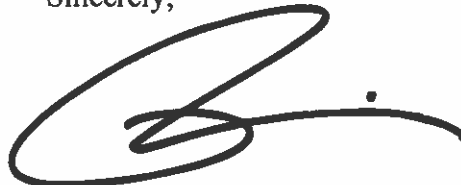
Dear Chair Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

Thank you both for your continual commitment to supporting water infrastructure projects that advance environmental and ecosystem restoration, especially your support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction account. Through the Army Corps' critical work on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program, significant progress has been made in the long journey toward restoring the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

Unfortunately, the USACE continually undermines their own work by ignoring the guidance given by another federal agency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has stated that water containing more than 8 parts per billion microcystin is unsafe for human contact. According to the EPA, potential risks to human health including liver failure, kidney damage, pneumonia and even death. As a result, in Congressional testimony on July 10, 2019, Major General Scott Spellmon was forced to acknowledge that the Army Corps had knowingly discharged toxic water into densely populated areas of Florida.

Under no circumstances should the federal government be allowed to poison its own citizens, and there is a simple solution that could be included the FY2022 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill: prohibiting the Army Corps from using funds appropriated by the bill to discharge water that tests above the EPA's 8 parts per billion microcystin standard out of the S-308 lock and dam. I ask that the committee do just that so that we can put a stop to government-sanctioned poisoning of Americans.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress