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Congress of the United States
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May 14, 2021

Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

To Lieutenant General Spellmon:

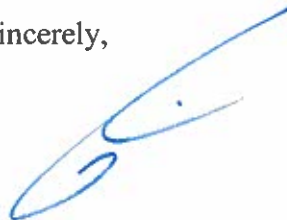
As you may know, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), algal blooms on Lake Okeechobee recently tested more than 100 times too toxic for human contact, and during Congressional testimony on July 10, 2019, you acknowledged to knowing that this water you are discharging to Florida's coastal communities from Lake Okeechobee is toxic. According to the EPA, potential health impacts from exposure include liver and kidney damage, ALS, Alzheimer's, and even death. Nonetheless, under your leadership, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is again threatening to discharge this toxic water into the communities that I represent.

On May 5, 2021 my staff reached out to your office to request that you visit Florida as soon as possible to view these toxic algal blooms on Lake Okeechobee. Your staff responded on May 7, 2021 that you were unwilling to visit despite committing during Congressional testimony in 2018 to work with me to ensure human health and public safety play a more influential role in the Army Corps' decision making.

I would think that the federal government's decision to knowingly poison its own citizens would be of the utmost importance to the Commanding General of the agency responsible for the decision. Therefore, I'm taking this opportunity to once again extend another invitation because if you are going to poison our community yet again you should first look in the eye the men, women and children whose lives you are putting at risk with your reckless decision making.

So, respectfully, instead of authorizing our community to be poisoned safely from your office in Washington, D.C., please uphold the commitment you made to me in 2018 by visiting our community before putting American lives at risk. I look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress