

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Subject: Veto Request on Fertilizer Ordinances

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of Captains For Clean Water and our community of supporters, we respectfully request that you veto the following proviso language found in line item 146, page 55 of SB 2500:

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 146, \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds shall be used by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to evaluate the effectiveness of the timing of seasonal fertilizer restrictions on urban landscapes toward achieving nutrient target objectives for waterbodies statewide. IFAS must submit a final report, including results and recommendations, by December 31, 2023, to the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

AND

Page 86, lines 2455-2460 of the implementing bill, SB 2502:

Section 85. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 146 of the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act, a county or municipal government may not adopt or amend a fertilizer management ordinance, pursuant to s. 403.9337, Florida Statutes, which provides for a prohibited application period not in existence on June 30, 2023. This section expires July 1, 2024.

The hallmark of this administration has been to further and protect clean and usable waterways throughout the state. The proviso language in 146 does nothing to ensure clean and usable waterways in the state of Florida. The potential short and long-term implications of this proposed language on water quality are unknown at this time yet have the potential to result in devastating impacts on waterbodies statewide.

We encourage you to safeguard the momentum you've achieved on restoring and protecting Florida's environment by vetoing this language. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Capt. Daniel Andrews
Co-Founder & Executive Director