

Broward Chapter Florida Native Plant Society



May 2013 ACTION NEWSLETTER

We rarely send alerts and don't bombard you with political action, but this is important. A terrible Bill passed the Florida House (HR999) and is about to pass the Florida Senate as SB 1684.

Below is also a reminder to sign the Florida Water and Land Legacy petition. It requires an original signature, so see where you can sign it or volunteer to help get even more signatures.

STOP SB 1684 - EMAIL OR PHONE TODAY

Next Week Is Too Late

This Bill is wrong on so many fronts; basically giving special interest candy in exchange for exploitation opportunities of water and the natural environment. Ask our Florida Senators to stop it. Here are some of its worst provisions:

(1) It exempts water control districts from complying with state and local wetland regulations. These water control districts account for more than 1 million acres of land and water, including the headwaters of the Econlockhatchee River near Orlando. This provision began as a gift to special interests who want to develop along the "Econ", but it's the kind of gift that keeps on giving, because it will apply to ALL water control districts. At a time when we need MORE wetland protection, the legislature is proposing LESS by exempting many large swaths of the state from wetland protection laws. Is that any way to manage our water resources, and to protect the native plant and animal life that depend on them?

(2) It prohibits local governments from adopting fertilizer control ordinances to protect water quality in their lakes, rivers and estuaries. Nutrient enrichment from the fertilizer contained in stormwater runoff is the primary threat to water quality in many areas, and several concerned counties and cities have adopted fertilizer ordinances because the state refuses to take action. The action being proposed by the state in this bill is to simply impose their inaction on everyone.

(3) It grants 30-year no-bid leases on more than 13,900 acres of publicly owned land in the Everglades Agricultural Area. These leases would be granted to the same sugar growers who polluted the Everglades. The sole intent of this provision is to force an end to the Florida Wildlife Federation's legal challenge of the harmful leases, which would make it harder to restore the Everglades and prevent additional pollution of the system.

(4) It prohibits water management districts from reducing permitted water withdrawals in areas where alternative water sources have been developed by private investors. We know that in some areas, excessive water withdrawals have been permitted. This provision will tie the hands of the districts by preventing them from reducing damaging withdrawals in such areas, even when more sustainable sources become available. It essentially privatizes the ownership and control of those new water sources. This is a dangerous step that erodes the public's ability to manage and conserve the water needed for both people and natural systems.

If the provisions of SB 1684 as described above make you angry -- they should! And there is even more to dislike. The title alone of this 31-page bill accounts for 3 and a half pages, because it is nothing less than a laundry list of gifts to special interests.

Here is a list of Senator phones and emails. Even just saying or writing "Please vote NO on SB 1684" from many of us could stop it ... or tell what is in your heart and mind. Contact your Senator (using your zip code) or Broward County or as many as you can. Thank you!

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/#Senators>

FLORIDA WATER AND LAND LEGACY

floridawaterlandlegacy.org

If you have any doubts about this read the [Frequent Asked Questions](#) and know that the Florida Native Plant Society Board and your local Broward Chapter Board both endorse it.

If you agree, commit to sign the petition this month and have some fun at one of these events:

Broward County Plant Affair: Heritage Park, Plantation; Saturday, May 4, 9am-5pm; Sign it here!

Hands Across the Sand: Deerfield Beach, 314 NE 21st Ave; Sat May 18, 11am-12:30pm; Sign it here!

Ft Lauderdale Home Show: Sat, May 25 (12:30pm-9:30pm) Sun, May 26 (12:30pm-9:30pm), Mon, May 27 (12:20pm-7:30pm); Sign it here!

Hollywood Farmers Market: 1940 North 30th Rd, Hollywood; Every Sat and Sun 8am-4pm; Sign it here!

Las Olas Outdoor Green Market: 1201 SE 12th Ave, Ft Lauderdale; Sundays 9am-2pm; Sign it here!

Plantation Farmer's Market: Volunteer Park (12050 W Sunrise Blvd); every Saturday, 8am-2pm; Sign it here!

... and "Thank You"

NEXT MONTH

More beautiful photographs and interesting information about Broward native plants. We value information and action.

Join & support our work at Coontie.org **"Join"**
Protecting & Growing Broward Native Plants

