United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 18, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with urgency and in support of Governor Rick Scott's August 14, 2016 appeal for federal emergency declaration in response to the toxic algal blooms in Florida's waterways. This disaster continues to negatively affect our estuaries and the economic livelihoods of Floridians.

Although Governor Scott declared a state of emergency, which provided resources to the areas hard pressed by the algal blooms, more must be done. Discharges from Lake Okeechobee have not stopped, and the bloom in the lake continues to grow. With the constant discharges, and summer weather providing the conditions to continue the algae overgrowth, an end to this disaster is not in sight. These waters are home to seagrasses and countless marine life which are vital to the ecosystem. A federal disaster declaration will go a long way in providing treatment options to mitigate the ecological effects and also make whole those businesses and property owners who have suffered economic losses due to the discharges.

The federal government has an important role to play in ensuring Florida's waters are able to rebound from this disaster. We respectfully request that you approve Governor Scott's appeal for federal emergency declaration.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

David W. Jolly
Member of Congress

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress