



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR DON GAETZ
President

July 10, 2013

Debbie Brown
Secretary of the Senate
Suite 405 Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Secretary Brown:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 1.5, today I am creating the Senate Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin (IRLLOB). This committee will serve as a stand-alone select committee. The full membership is as follows:

Joe Negron, Chair
Charles Dean, Vice Chair
Lizbeth Benacquisto
Alan Hays
Maria Lorts Sachs

Bill Montford, Vice Chair
Denise Grimsley
Arthenia Joyner

This committee will be staffed by the following:

Staff Directors
Pepper Uchino
Jamie DeLoach

Committee Administrative Assistant
Kim Bonn

The select committee will investigate policies, spending, and any other governmental activities affecting water management in the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin. The committee will conduct hearings and direct such work as necessary to complete specified tasks and prepare a report to be submitted by November 4, 2013, to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Environmental Preservation, and Agriculture. Specific tasks include:

1. Review historic and current state and federal basin wide water management policies and activities, including discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon;

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2. Assess the impact of current water release activities and evaluate the results of environmental priorities in the basin;
3. Identify options for state and federal action to improve basin wide water management, including alternatives for discharges from Lake Okeechobee; and,
4. Develop recommendations for improved water management.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Gaetz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Gaetz
President

Cc: Senators
Pepper Uchino, Staff Director, Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation
Jamie DeLoach, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Katherine Halley, Staff Director, Senate Committee on Agriculture