

From: Reef Rescue <etichscuba@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Senate Bill 724, Domestic Wastewater Discharged Through Ocean Outfalls
Date: February 23, 2012 9:29:42 AM EST
To: "llyoung2@earthlink.net" <llyoung2@earthlink.net>, "reefteam2@yahoo.com" <reefteam2@yahoo.com>, "trwarnke@hotmail.com" <trwarnke@hotmail.com>, "SFDHJeff@aol.com" <SFDHJeff@aol.com>, "foxhope@aol.com" <foxhope@aol.com>, "william_djubin@msn.com" <william_djubin@msn.com>, "skip@force-e.com" <skip@force-e.com>, "Etichscuba@aol.com" <Etichscuba@aol.com>, "flapeer@comcast.net" <flapeer@comcast.net>, Ericka Canales <ecanales@surfrider.org>, "tremmel@surfriderpbc.org" <tremmel@surfriderpbc.org>, "djk198@comcast.net" <djk198@comcast.net>, "goreau@bestweb.net" <goreau@bestweb.net>, "dquirol@gmail.com" <dquirol@gmail.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: Reef Rescue <etichscuba@aol.com>
To: alexander.jd.web <alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov>; altman.thad.web <altman.thad.web@flsenate.gov>; benacquisto.lizbeth.web <benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov>; bennett.mike.web <bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov>; bogdanoff.ellyn.web <bogdanoff.ellyn.web@flsenate.gov>; braynon.oscar.web <braynon.oscar.web@flsenate.gov>; bullard.larcenia.web <bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov>; dean.charles.web <dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov>; detert.nancy.web <detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov>; dockery.paula.web <dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov>; evers.greg.web <evers.greg.web@flsenate.gov>; fasano.mike.web <fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov>; flores.anitere.web <flores.anitere.web@flsenate.gov>; gaetz.don.web <gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov>; garcia.rene.web <garcia.rene.web@flsenate.gov>; gardiner.andy.web <gardiner.andy.web@flsenate.gov>; gibson.audrey.web <gibson.audrey.web@flsenate.gov>; haridopolos.mike.web <haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov>; hays.alan.web <hays.alan.web@flsenate.gov>; jones.dennis.web <jones.dennis.web@flsenate.gov>; joyner.arthenia.web <joyner.arthenia.web@flsenate.gov>; latvala.jack.web <latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov>; lynn.evelyn.web <lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov>; margolis.gwen.web <margolis.gwen.web@flsenate.gov>; montford.bill.web <montford.bill.web@flsenate.gov>; negron.joe.web <negron.joe.web@flsenate.gov>; norman.jim.web <norman.jim.web@flsenate.gov>; oelrich.steve.web <oelrich.steve.web@flsenate.gov>; norman.jim.web <norman.jim.web@flsenate.gov>; oelrich.steve.web <oelrich.steve.web@flsenate.gov>; rich.nan.web <rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov>; richter.garrett.web <richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov>; ring.jeremy.web <ring.jeremy.web@flsenate.gov>; sachs.maria.web <sachs.maria.web@flsenate.gov>; simmons.david.web <simmons.david.web@flsenate.gov>; siplin.gary.web <siplin.gary.web@flsenate.gov>; smith.chris.web <smith.chris.web@flsenate.gov>; sobel.eleanor.web <sobel.eleanor.web@flsenate.gov>; storms.ronda.web <storms.ronda.web@flsenate.gov>; thrasher.john.web <thrasher.john.web@flsenate.gov>; wise.stephen.web <wise.stephen.web@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Thu, Feb 23, 2012 9:06 am
Subject: Senate Bill 724, Domestic Wastewater Discharged Through Ocean Outfalls

Clean Water Network of Florida, February 23, 2012
Cry-of-the-Water,
Eastern Surfing Association,
Global Coral Reef Alliance,
Greater Fort Lauderdale Dive Operators Association,
Nature Travelers Club,
Ocean Rehab Initiative Inc.,
Palm Beach County Dive Industry Association,
Palm Beach County Reef Rescue,
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility,
Surfrider Foundation,
Reef Relief,
Reef Relief Founders

Re: Senate Bill 724, Domestic Wastewater Discharged Through Ocean Outfalls

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned ocean advocacy, industry and conservation organizations, on behalf of our ten's of thousands of members and supporters strongly urge you not to support Senate Bill 724 (Domestic Wastewater Discharged Through Ocean Outfalls). SB 724 is intended to delay implementation of the 2008 Florida Ocean Outfall legislation which was enacted to phase out the archaic practice of discharging inadequately treated sewage into southeast Florida's coastal coral reef ecosystem. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 239,000 acres of coral reefs and associated reef resources lie within the four-county area affected by SB 724. This northern portion of the Florida Reef Tract stretches more than 100 miles from the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. These reefs are part of the third longest reef system in the world which annually sustains more than 71,000 jobs and generates \$6.3 billion dollars in sales and income for Florida. (http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/news/2009/02/files/0212_02.pdf)

Florida's corals are dying at an alarming rate; between 1996 and 2001 the Keys experienced a 40 percent decrease in coral cover. Since the 1980's, 97% of Florida's Staghorn and Elkhorn reef building corals have died prompting the federal government to elevate these species to threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. Recent studies have linked Elkhorn coral white pox disease with *Serratia marcescens*, a human pathogen found in sewage, (Sutherland KP, Shaban S, Joyner JL, Porter JW, Lipp EK (2011) Human Pathogen Shown to Cause Disease in the Threatened Elkhorn Coral *Acropora palmata*. PLoS ONE 6(8): e23468.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0023468).

(<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0023468>)

Along with the mix of nutrient pollution and pathogens spewing from south Florida's ocean outfalls, EPA reports Personal Care Products and Pharmaceuticals (PCPP's) now represent and ever increasing threat to the environment. Recent studies have found Prozac in fish organs and disrupted sexual development in fish cause by estrogen.

The 2008 Florida Ocean Outfall legislation was not all about saving coral reefs. A key driver of the legislation was the need to conserve water in south Florida. Water needed for agriculture, population growth and Everglades restoration. The southeast counties have one of the lowest water reclamation and reuse records in Florida. Everyday 396,000,000 gallons of wastewater is discharged into the coastal waters of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The 2008 legislation mandates that 60% of this wastewater be allocated for reuse.

We strongly urge you not to turn back the clock; time is running out for Florida's coral reefs. Please vote no on SB 724.

Sincerely,

Clean Water Network of Florida
Linda Young, Director

Cry-of-the-Water
Dan Clark, President

Eastern Surfing Association National Head Quarters
Eastern Surfing Association South Florida District
Eastern Surfing Association Palm Beach County District
Tom Warnke, Chairman of the Board

Global Coral Reef Alliance
Thomas J. Goreau, PhD, President

Greater Fort Lauderdale Diving Association
Jeff Torode, President

Nature Travelers Club, Delray Beach
Hope Fox, President

Ocean Rehab Initiative Inc.
William Djubin, President

Palm Beach County Dive Industry Association
Van Blakeman, Director

Palm Beach County Reef Rescue
Ed Tichenor, Director

PEER, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Jerry Phillips, Director Florida Chapter

Surfrider Foundation
Miami Chapter
Broward Chapter
Treasure Coast Chapter
Sebastian Inlet Chapter
Cocoa Beach Chapter
Volusia Flagler Chapter
First Coast Chapter
Suncoast Chapter
Central Florida Chapter
Emerald Coast Chapter
Ericka Canales, Florida Regional Manager

Surfrider Foundation Palm Beach County Chapter
Todd Rimmel, Chapter Chair

Reef Relief
Peter Anderson, Chairman & President

Reef Relief Founders
Craig & DeeVon Quirolo

