

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:13 AM
To: 'bhurt@tampabay.rr.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: Docket#20200226-SU
Attachments: island psc letter.docx

Good Morning, Barry and Kaye Hurt.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

From: bhurt@tampabay.rr.com <bhurt@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 'Commissioner.' <LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: kayehurt@att.net
Subject: Docket#20200226-SU

Please refer to attachment. Thank you

Date---Feb 6, 2022

To-----Florida PSC Commissioners

From—Barry and Kaye Hurt, 9666 Privateer Road, LGI

Re-----Docket# 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

As a 20-year fulltime resident of Little Gasparilla Island, we are conflicted on this matter. As to the NEED for the sewer project, we are in agreement that it is needed. As a clam farmer and President of the SW Florida Shellfish Association, the impact of Submerged Groundwater Discharge into our estuary is proven to us both by recent scientific research and our own observation. The increase in frequency and intensity in noxious microalgae such as Florida red tide and macroalgae clogging our waterways and blocking critical sunlight needed by seagrasses, is having a devastating effect on our waters. The University of Florida estimated the economic impact of the 2018-2019 red tide event was at least some \$650 million dollars. Our shellfish farms were closed for harvest for some 14 months. Long time family farms went out of business and have been unable to reopen. In the last 4 years, we have recently lost over 20% of our seagrasses. Again, the need to reduce nutrient levels in Charlotte Harbor and Lemon Bay is unquestioned in our mind.

Our conflict is in HOW we proceed. As homeowners, we want to proceed in an expedient and professional manner utilizing the most proven cost effective and technologically secure approach. We also need to be able to take advantage of any and all cost reductions and deferments available to us. We are not so-called 'big government' people, but there is a need for government in some cases. We believe this is one. We are bewildered as to why a bond issue with the input and administration of experienced sewer professionals is seemingly not an option for us at this time.

We ask that you consider a pause in your decision to award a contractor until a time more unanswered questions can be made clearer. Included in this is an exploration of a special not for profit sewer district which I have the understanding does have the power under Florida law to create a bond issue, apply for grant funding, and has some taxation advantages. We believe this pause would be in the best interest of all property owners at this point. A reasonable delay would not dramatically affect current nutrient levels as our barrier island homes represent a small fraction of the septic systems that need to be eventually changed over.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry and Kaye Hurt

9666 Privateer Road

PO Box 3386

Placida, Florida 33946