

Jenae Thornberry

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032
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Thanks

From: Brittany Essig <rootsandbranchesfl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2025 8:16 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Septic to Sewer-FOR IT! Hi. :)

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Hello State Commissioners!

Not gonna lie, that was a long day and a half to sit and talk about poop! Ha ha.

In all seriousness, thanks for what yall do for our community.

I wanted to share some thoughts I have after listening to EVERYONE. :)

There are valid points to both sides of course. I heard a lot of **opinions** to be honest. I 100% understand that the cost of connecting to sewer **can be** a stressor to some but the truth is, most of the islanders (both PI & LGI), are not making minimum wage and these are second homes. It was evident during the buying process that they were purchasing a property on a bridgeless barrier island. I mean come on. Each homeowner out there understands the obstacles and additional costs. I lived out there from the age of 5 to 18. I then moved back out with my three children in 2008 for three years. I do real estate out there and my husband is one of the main contractors on the island. He has a waiting list of three years for people specifically on Palm Island. The homeowners have no problem spending however much money when remodeling or building a new home on the island. Why is the sewer any different? Right? I'd have to connect to the sewer if it was mandatory on the mainland. No difference.

Mr. Martin, with Martin Septic is FOR sewer. His testimony wasn't very clear because I think he was a bit nervous. He was explaining that even the most advanced systems have their flaws for the owner/environment.

The conversation regarding the barge time, money, and wait was exacerbated. Yes, the barge can take more time at times and it costs to go over. Do yall realize that you can throw a rock to the otherside? It can't be more than 100 yards from the mainland to the island.

Florida as a whole must take action for better water quality regulations. For sure.

I have attached photos of septic systems all over after the storm surge. There are endless studies and articles discussing the need for sewer over septic. Why would some of the most precious land and waterways (The entire Keys) make this transition yet we aren't?

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME! REALLY. THANK YOU.

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Warmest Regards,

Brittany Essig, MA, LMHC
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