

raised concerns about the proposal and expressed opposition to it. This opposition has not waned as this process has moved forward. The vast majority of comments at both public hearings have been opposed to this application.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is rushing to take over wetlands permitting and has created a proposal that is incomplete, full of uncertainty, and one that puts our water resources at risk. Additionally, this process has carved many constituencies out of the conversation and public involvement has been inadequate for a decision of this magnitude.

Waterkeepers Florida and the undersigned organizations urge you to deny FDEP's application package for assumption of Clean Water Act Section 404 authority in order to ensure that our water resources retain the critical federal protections and oversight that our wetlands and vulnerable water resources so desperately need.

Sincerely,
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