July 19, 2021

Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Re: State of Emergency on Red Tide for Tampa Bay

The undersigned respectfully request you immediately declare a state of emergency for the ongoing red tide and fish kill occurring in Tampa Bay. Such a declaration would help coordinate and fund relief efforts to mitigate further environmental and economic damage from red tide in the region.

Red tide produces toxic chemicals that harm marine wildlife and humans. The ongoing, widespread red tide and fish kills have unreasonably interfered with the health, safety, and welfare of the State of Florida, causing harm to its environment and fragile ecosystems in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties.

Therefore, we ask you exercise your authority, as the Governor of Florida, vested by the Florida Constitution and the Florida Emergency Management Act to issue an executive order declaring a state of emergency due to red tide in Tampa Bay.

Sincerely,

Audubon Everglades Scott Zucker, President Scott@auduboneverglades.org

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Paul Bonasia, President pauljbonasia@gmail.com

Cape Coral Wildlife Trust Lori Haus-Bulcock Baybird60@gmail.com

Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper info@calusawaterkeeper.org Cat Chase Media
Caitlin Chase, Owner
CatChaseMedia@gmail.com

Center for Biological Diversity Elise Bennett, Staff Attorney ebennett@biologicaldiversity.org

Chispa Florida Maria Revelles, Program Director maria@fcvoters.org

Collins Law Group
Martha M. Collins, Esq.
mcollins@collins-lawgroup.com

Defenders of Wildlife Elizabeth Flemming, Senior Florida Representative EFleming@defenders.org

Environment Florida Jenna Stevens, State Director jstevens@environmentflorida.org

Florida Student Power Network Mary-Elizabeth Estrada, Tampa Climate Justice Organizer Meestrada97@gmail.com

Florida Turtle Conservation Trust George L. Heinrich, Executive Director george@heinrichecologicalservices.com

Food & Water Watch Brooke Errett, Florida Senior Organizer berrett@fwwatch.org

Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Ron Seifer, President Ronseifer23@yahoo.com

Friends of Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges Barbara Howard, President friends@TampaBayRefuges.org Healthy Gulf
Matt Rota, Senior Policy Director
matt@healthygulf.org

IDEAS For Us, Inc. Clayton Louis Ferrara, Executive Director Clay@ideasforus.org

ManaSota-88, Inc. Glenn Compton, Chairman Manasota88@comcast.com

Moms Clean Air Force & EcoMadres Gabi Da Silva, Florida Field Consultant gdasilva@momscleanairforce.org

Peace+Myakka Waterkeeper Andre Mele, Executive Director andymele@mac.com

People for Protecting Peace River Brooks Armstrong, President pinelilywild@yahoo.com

Suncoast Waterkeeper
Justin Bloom, Founder and Board Member
jbloom@suncoastwaterkeeper.org

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper Megan Eakins, Board Chair chairman@tampabaywaterkeeper.org

The Surfrider Foundation
Marilu Cristina Flores, Regional Manager, Florida & Puerto Rico
mflores@surfrider.org

The Surfrider Foundation, Florida Keys Chapter Shawn Martin, Chair <u>chair@floridakeys.surfrider.org</u>

Tropical Audubon Society
Paola Ferriera Miani, Executive Director
executivedirector@tropicalaudubon.org

Waterkeeper Alliance Patience Burke, Gulf and South Atlantic Regions Organizer pburke@waterkeeper.org

Waterkeepers Florida Jen Lomberk, Chair Jen@MatanzasRiverkeeper.org

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org