



Good evening board, my name is Lee Spears I am here representing Bienville Outdoors located in white springs. I'm here before you this afternoon requesting your support in saving lake 14 from becoming a clay settling area also known as "Proposed SA14" in the reports before you.

Many of you may not know, but lake 14 is and has been the heart of Bienville for many, many years. Lake 14 consists of approximately 1000 acres of surface water and hundreds of miles of shoreline. There are four other lakes under the same footprint of lake 14 known as Widgeon Hole A, B, and C. These lakes will also be affected by allowing a clay settling area through this permit.

Not being able to use this body of water has placed an economic burden on Bienville and has lost tax revenue to Hamilton County. Please keep in mind that we are well aware that it's not just us that is losing now it is also the local businesses that are affected by our guest use frequently.

I would now like to provide you with some data to support my last statement:

The revenue previously generated from utilizing lake 14 by fishermen from all around the world was approximately \$1.5 million dollars annually. This lake can comfortably fit 50 bass boats with two individuals and sometimes more on each boat. So, when we look deeper into this by not allowing us to continue using this lake the county will also lose the bed tax from the people that would be using our lodging accommodations as well as other lodgings available in the county. Please understand the long-term revenue that can be produced by proposing a new location for Nutrien to utilize their clay settling plans.

Not only do we use this area for fishing we also use the area for hunting animals such as alligator deer duck and Turkey that generate approximately \$200,000 just by leasing the lake. This would be an additional loss in bed tax and be a long-term economic impact to Hamilton County.

A little bit more about us and the history of lake 14 is every year we hosted a tournament raising money for Shands Children's Hospital where we donated all the proceeds back to Shands Children's Hospital.

Now I would like to take the time to give an overview of our current clay settling areas. Nutrien currently has five existing permitted clay settling areas on Bienville property SA5, 6A, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13. Combined all of this area involved is approximately 3,600 acres. If the proposed SA14 becomes a part of this (measuring at approximately 1,600 acres) it would then be a total of 5,200 acres which will be unusable for the foreseeable future. Lake 14 was not always a proposed settling area until recently.

Looking at this from an environmental standpoint we would also like to mention the established wildlife habitats surrounding this area as well as aquatic life within the lake itself. It is often we find Bald Eagle nesting, Osprey, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, multiple species of Duck, sparrow, Sandhill Crane, Armadillo, Opossum, Alligator, Whitetail Deer, just to name a few above the surface. All of these will be grossly affected and ultimately result in a species reduction.

In short, we are requesting the County to pursue other options for settling areas with Nutrien that does not include Bienville property for the sake of long-term revenue purposes, taking in consideration both parties.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lee Spears

Bienville Outdoors

Whitesprings, FL