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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

July 5, 2018

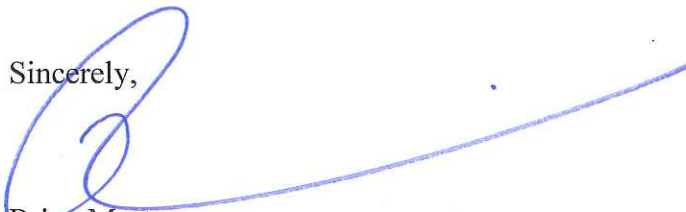
COL Jason A. Kirk
District Commander
Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Colonel Kirk:

As you know, recent satellite images of Lake Okeechobee by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that more than 90 percent of the lake is currently covered in algal blooms. Algal blooms discharged recently from Lake Okeechobee have tested positive for toxins. These blooms, therefore, pose a significant threat to human health and safety.

You are charged with protecting human safety, yet are currently scheduled to resume discharges from Lake Okeechobee on Monday, July 9, 2018. Because these blooms present a more imminent and dangerous threat to public health and safety than anything else, I formally request that you not resume discharges on July 9, 2018 and that the Army Corps cease discharges until you can prove definitively that the toxins no longer exist or a greater imminent threat emerges.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress