

Murphy Fighting to Save the St. Lucie

Since his first days in office, Congressman Patrick Murphy has been fighting to save the St. Lucie River & Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon from harmful pollutants. Rep. Murphy has made the health of these local waterways a top priority, putting all ideas on the table to address this pressing issue. Here are some of the actions he has taken and ways **YOU** can join the fight:

Action & Advocacy

- ◆ Worked to get the Obama Administration to **commit \$38 million** to completing the C-44 **Indian River Lagoon** South Everglades Restoration project.
- ◆ Led effort to ensure that agricultural **conservation** funding benefits **Florida's 18th District**.
- ◆ Urging the Army Corps to complete vital projects along the **Kissimmee River** to **store more water north of Lake Okeechobee**.
- ◆ Hosted a **bipartisan Congressional briefing** on the state of our local waterways with over **100 members of the community** and over **20 Members of Congress** to work towards real solutions to this issue.
- ◆ Requested the **President** visit the area to witness the pollution **firsthand**.
- ◆ Brought **Congressional leaders** and the **head of the Army Corps** to tour the damaged areas, bringing attention to the ongoing crisis.
- ◆ Calling on the **Army Corps** to reevaluate the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (**LORS**) to reassess how much water can be safely stored in the lake.
- ◆ Urging the **Army Corps** to move water from Water Conservation Areas (**WCAs**) to allow more water to flow south of the lake.
- ◆ Fighting for **Everglades** restoration projects in the **Water Bill** to complete these projects more **quickly & effectively**.
- ◆ Working in a **bipartisan** manner to urge the Army Corps to finalize the Chief's Report for the **Central Everglades Planning Project** (CEPP) that will allow water to flow **south** from Lake Okeechobee.
- ◆ Working with the **South Florida Water Management District** to find alternative water storage **south of the lake**.
- ◆ Supporting the establishment of an **Everglades Headwater Conservation Area** north of the lake to reduce agricultural run-offs into Lake Okeechobee.
- ◆ Supporting **municipal and county** efforts to upgrade **storm water systems**.
- ◆ Working with **local entrepreneurs** to find alternative **water storage** and **filtering** methods, such as water farming and filtration.
- ◆ Advocating for **coastal restoration** and **estuary maintenance**.
- ◆ Supporting **local scientists** who study and monitor water quality levels and **research** specific sources of pollution.

Questions or suggestions? Please contact my office at 561-253-8433 or visit www.PatrickMurphy.house.gov.

What You Can Do To Help

Our community's focus on the plight of the St. Lucie River, Estuary and Indian River Lagoon has helped bring national attention to our waterways, and we must continue to fight for solutions to the problems that have been plaguing our region for too long.

Here are a few approaches you can take to keep fighting for cleaner waterways:

- **Keep speaking out** about the importance of finalizing the **Water Bill** to move forward **critical Everglades restoration projects**.
- Contact the House and Senate **Appropriations Committees** and ask them to **prioritize funding** that will:
 - Help **repair & restore** the Hoover Dike that holds back the waters of **Lake Okeechobee**;
 - **Fund Everglades projects** that will help clean water in our region;
 - **Promote USDA conservation projects** that help farmers **hold more water** on their land during rainy seasons.
- Urge the **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** and the **Senate Energy and Water Committee** to pass legislation that allows the CEPP project to move forward, moving water south.
- Contact your **state & local officials** about the importance of:
 - Ordinances regulating **run-off**
 - Funding for **Everglades** restoration projects
 - Approaches to holding water in a multitude of **storage areas**
 - Strengthen **water quality** standards
- Inspect your septic system **annually** and have it pumped out at least once



Rep. Murphy joined local efforts to expand oyster reefs in the Indian River Lagoon.

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