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## THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Representative Will Robinson**  
*71<sup>st</sup> District*

January 22, 2021

Secretary Noah Valenstein  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Deputy Secretary John Truitt  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Valenstein and Deputy Secretary Truitt,

I wanted to update you on the Piney Point situation here in Manatee County. I have had several individual conversations with Manatee County Commissioners on this topic and further testified to them on December 15<sup>th</sup> on the importance of finally agreeing on the method of clean up.

We are all well aware of the complicated situation that is Piney Point. Piney Point is an environmental ticking time bomb that was created by a private entity on its private property. This private land owner has gone in and out of bankruptcy and, as you know, is currently in a foreclosure lawsuit in Circuit Court in Manatee County, Florida (2020CA4459AX). This matter is further governed by the 2014 Consent Order between the FDEP and the private landowner.

The FDEP has been very proactive in looking for approaches that present both short-term and long-term solutions. The short-term solution of running and cleaning some of the water in the stacks is a limited approach, but is essential to prevent immediate spillage that could come from a major rainstorm.

At the December 15th Manatee BOCC meeting, the Commission unanimously agreed to make the resolution of Piney Point its top legislative priority. The Manatee County Legislative Delegation met earlier this month and unanimously made this issue our top state legislative priority as well. The Manatee County Commission has scheduled a workshop in early February to discuss [and hopefully come to consensus] on the preferred long-term clean up approach: a deep well injection or a clean water onsite process, along with a discussion of timing and cost.

My personal strong preference is to remove all the contaminated water from the entire site and to close the stacks, rather than utilize a deep well injection, which in my view just punts the issue to a future generation. I believe

### ***Committee Assignments***

*Professions & Public Health Subcommittee (Chair), Health & Human Services Committee, Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, Regulatory Reform Subcommittee*

that there are effective technologies in place to clean the entire site in a scientific, timely and cost effective manner.

I offer my full support [and any and all resources of my legislative office] to work with the FDEP, along with Manatee County and the private landowner, to: (a) finalize and agree upon a long term solution to clean up Piney Point; (b) find the methods and resources to pay for the clean-up.

My office has made this a top priority and we will work with your team on any approach that helps us accomplish those two above goals, including but not limited to, filing and advocating for a funding request through the Florida House of Representatives.

Please feel free to reach out to my office if you need any additional information and to schedule a time for us to meet to further discuss the issue.

Sincerely,



Representative Will Robinson

Cc: Senator Jim Boyd  
Representative Tommy Gregory, Chairman of the Manatee County Legislative Delegation  
Representative Michele Rayner  
Chairman Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County Commission  
First Vice-Chair George Kruse, Manatee County Commission  
Second Vice-Chair Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Manatee County Commission  
Third Vice-Chair Reggie Bellamy, Manatee County Commission  
Commissioner James Satcher, Manatee County Commission  
Commissioner Misty Servia, Manatee County Commission  
Commissioner Carol Whitmore, Manatee County Commission