

Letter to the editor

Struhs wrong; polluters' lobbyists crafted bad rule

The Palm Beach Post

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The Clean Water Network appreciates the support that The Post's Sept. 24th editorial "Toxic rule-changing" gave to our challenge of the Department of Environmental Protection's impaired-waters rule. Our legal challenge of this rule, which undermines the Clean Water Act, is supported by more than 50 organizations across Florida.

It is unfortunate that DEP Secretary David B. Struhs missed the editorial's point and instead took offense, as reflected in his letter, "Taking issue with rule OK; insulting DEP isn't," in Friday's paper. His contention that the rule was written by nonpolitical state employees is insulting to Floridians who tried for two years to participate in the development of the rule.

The attorneys for four of the biggest polluting industry groups in the state worked with DEP attorneys for months before and during the hearing to defeat the efforts of Clean Water Network and the tens of thousands of citizens who support our efforts.

Mr. Struhs wrote a long letter on behalf of Florida polluters to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing federal efforts to enforce the Clean Water Act. He and Gov. Bush have made it clear through numerous letters that they do not support the Clean Water Act's requirement that states identify and clean up polluted waters.

If **DEP's** rule is approved, Florida polluters will enjoy many more decades of freely dumping their wastes into waters that were meant for drinking, fishing and swimming. <end; no **cuts**>

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http://www.gopbi.com/partners/pbpost/epaper/editions/today/opinion_5.html

The Clean Water Network

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