

Dear Editor:

In a time when so many of our environmental protections are being weakened, your readers should know that some of their leaders in Washington are standing up for clean water in Florida. The Bush administration in Washington has a plan to allow publicly-owned sewage treatment plants to dump untreated sewage in our waters anytime it rains, which would be disastrous for tourism, fishing, and public health.

Congressional Representatives Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Alcee Hastings, and Robert Wexler took a stand against this backward-thinking idea, and The Clean Water Network would like to thank them and ask others to do the same. These representatives joined 132 other members of Congress, along with Florida Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez, in signing a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing this policy. We applaud their leadership in protecting public health, our economy and our waters. Now congressional leader Rep. Clay Shaw from Ft. Lauderdale has introduced the "Save Our Waters from Sewage Act," to try to stop EPA from moving forward with its sewage dumping policy. Please take time to thank Reps. Wasserman Schultz, Hastings, and Wexler and encourage them to co-sponsor this important legislation. Please thank Rep. Shaw for authoring the letter that went to the EPA and for introducing the legislation.

Linda L. Young
Southeast Regional Director
Clean Water Network
Tallahassee, FL