

Denise Grimsley
Florida House of Representatives
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December 6, 2008

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Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

On Monday the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board is expected to vote on the \$1.34 billion proposal to purchase 180,000 acres of land owned by United States Sugar Corporation.

When the buyout was announced in late June, I wrote your office concerning the “economic transition plan” you were proposing for the Glades area. At that time government leaders were requesting information on what would be offered to attract new economic development opportunities and provide job creation in the region. On June 27, 2008 I received a letter from Dale Brill, Director, Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, advising his office would be working closely with the “communities, their local governments, state agencies, business and elected leaders to begin charting a transition for the region”. A staff person with OTTED visited the region for input from the citizens and now nearly six months later, local elected officials and I are still waiting for a plan.

While we understand 1,700 jobs will not disappear immediately, it is of great concern to the communities that no transition plan has been offered. Just as the public had an opportunity to provide input on the land acquisition proposal, they should also be afforded an opportunity to scrutinize a transition plan.

Without a plan to replace 1,700 jobs I can't in good faith support this proposal; no governmental entity involved has delivered on an economic re-development plan, and furthermore, a replacement on the Governing Board hasn't been filled as well. Another promise not fulfilled.

Chair, Government Accountability Act Council; Chair, Joint Legislative Sunset Committee
Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care; Health Care Appropriations Committee;
General Government Policy Council; Policy Council; Rules and Calendar Council

Governor Crist
December 9, 2008
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As leaders of our state we have a moral obligation to ensure citizens are protected from any undue harm from a government entity. I hope you will agree the residents of the Glades have heard enough promises; it is time for solutions. A final vote by the South Florida Water Management Governing Board must be postponed until all promises are fulfilled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Grimsley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Grimsley
Representative, District 77

Cc: Honorable Ray Sansom, Speaker
House of Representatives
Honorable Dean Cannon, Chair
Finance & Tax Council
Mike Sole, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Eric Buermann, Chairman
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
Carol A. Wehle, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District