

Colleen V. Conko

From: Jeffrey Rogers
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 5:12 PM
To: Colleen V. Conko
Subject: FW: Keep Hernando County's Fertilizer Ban Strong!

I have received a lot of emails for the fertilizer ordinance. All the same as this one.

Jeffrey Rogers, P.E.
County Administrator
Hernando County
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604
(352)754-4841
jrogers@hernandocounty.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie Rocke (dr_myrtle@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 11:34 AM
To: Jeffrey Rogers <JRogers@co.hernando.fl.us>
Subject: Keep Hernando County's Fertilizer Ban Strong!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County Administrator Jeff Rogers,

Dear Hernando County Board of County Commissioners:

As a local resident, I urge you to keep Hernando County's fertilizer ordinance strong. The June-September rainy season ban is the backbone of smart, effective urban fertilizer management.

Weakening it means more pollution flowing into our already stressed waters. It means putting the health of the Weeki Wachee and everything it supports at risk. Our local economy, property values, and quality of life are all tied to clean water.

From paddling the river and spotting manatees to sustaining local jobs and real estate, clean water powers what we love about Hernando. This ordinance works. It prevents pollution before it starts without costing taxpayers a dime.

Please don't roll it back. We're counting on you to protect what makes this place home. Don't let us down.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Debbie Rocke
6386 East Anna Jo Dr.
Inverness, FL 34452

dr_myrtle@yahoo.com
(617) 803-6487

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

May 6, 2023

To: Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

20 N Main St # 460, Brooksville, FL 34601
Brooksville, FL 34604

Via email to planning@hernandocounty.us and administration@hernandocounty.us

RE: Please Keep Hernando County's Strong Rainy Season Fertilizer Ban

Dear Chair Hawkins and Commissioners,

We, the undersigned local business owners, managers, and employees, property owners, and residents urge you to keep Hernando County's current strong urban fertilizer ordinance intact. Weakening or removing the strict June through September (rainy season) nitrogen and phosphorus application ban—the backbone of effective urban fertilizer management—would be a step backward in the county's endeavor to create a prosperous community for working people, retirees, and visitors.

The rainy season application ban helps prevent nutrient pollution runoff and leaching during the summer when heavy rains are common. Without it, fertilizer from lawns and landscapes washes into our springs, rivers, and estuaries fueling harmful algae blooms that threaten tourism, property values, and small businesses—the bases of our local economy.

A healthy Weeki Wachee River attracts tourists who spend their hard-earned money on hotels, local Airbnb and VRBO rentals, meals at our restaurants, and recreational activities like paddling, scalloping, and fishing. Our water-based attractions are also key to keeping property values strong, which not only serves the interests of property owners, but also our county's ability to collect and spend tax revenues on essential services to keep Hernando County a lovely place to live.

It only takes one toxic algae outbreak, manatee mortality event, fish kill, or mass seagrass dieoff to damage Hernando's reputation and drive visitors elsewhere.

We all benefit when we stop pollution at its source. Preventing urban fertilizer pollution is far cheaper, easier, and more effective than trying to clean up waterways after the damage is done. The strict rainy season ban is a low-cost, proven tool used in over a hundred other communities across Florida over the past 18 years.

Please stay the course. Don't weaken the rainy season ban. Keep Hernando's fertilizer ordinance strong—for our springs, our economy, and our quality of life.

Sincerely,

Bayport Enterprises

Jeff Ruggiero, Owner

Bayport Inn Restaurant

Monique Pogolak, Manager

Brian's Place Restaurant

Brian Alvarez, Owner

Broad Street Brewing Co.

Tanya Myers, Owner

Buy & Sell with Paul, LLC

Paul Sturdgess-Hayes, Managing Member

Canal Side Market & Deli

Nikki Hart, Owner

Creative Environmental Solutions, Inc.

George Foster, President

Experience Weeki

Kelly and David Winterling, Owners

Florida Native Plant Society

Eugene Kelly, President

Florida Springs Council

Ryan Smart, Executive Director

Florida Springs Passport

Danielle Cecil, Owner

Foster's Roofing

John Foster, Owner

Get Up and Go Kayaking

Weeki Wachee, Taylor Masnjak, Owner

Get Up and Go Kayaking—the Chazz

Austin Adkins, Owner

Get Up Go Kayaking

Justin Buzzi, Founder & CEO

Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Jon Thaxton, Director of Community Investment

Hernando Audubon

Tom St. Clair, PhD, President & Conservation Chair

Hernando Beach Marina

Bill Jay, General Manager

Hernando Beach Tropical Grille

Cheryl Peloquin, Owner

Hernando Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

Renee Holcomb, President

Hernando Environmental Land Protectors (HELP)

Shelly Brown, President

Marina Rose Cruises

Patrick and Sheryl Coggins, Owners

Mary's Fish Camp

Blair Hensley, Managing Member

McLeod Real Estate

Dylan McLeod, Owner

My Round Boat

Marousa Placiotis Rodriguez, Owner

National Wildlife Federation

Joe Murphy, Wildlife Policy Specialist

Pine Island Property Owners Association

Joe Crawford, President

Save the Manatee Club

Beth Brady, PhD, Director of Science and Conservation

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

DeeVon Quirolo, Chair

Sierra Club Florida

Michael McGrath, Lead Organizer

Southern Slam Outfitters

Captain Carey Gibson, Owner

SUP Weeki

Pam & Jerry Napp, Owners

Trader Bay Seafood Company

Antonia Webe, Owner

Treelawn Builders

Paul Beasley, Owner

Veterans of Foreign Wars "VFW" Post 9236

Jason Spencer, Commander

Weeki Wachee Area Club, Inc.

Mary Ann Johnson, President

Weeki Wachee Area Watch

Stephanie Kozuch, President

Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team

Roy Johnson, President

Weeki Wachee Swamp Festival, Inc.

Karen Smythe

Weeki Wachee Vacation Rentals

Brianna Murphy, Owner

Gary Kuhl, former Hernando County Administrator

Sonny Vergara

From: [Nicole McVey](#)
To: [Administration Resource Object](#)
Subject: Fertilizer Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:09:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Letter to Whom It May Concern

As a citizen of Hernando County, I wish to express my stance on the proposed revisions to the existing fertilizer ordinance, with a particular focus on the rain season blackout provision.

I ****oppose**** the removal of the rain season fertilizer blackout. This regulation plays a crucial role in safeguarding our natural springs, rivers, and native plants. The advantages of this ban significantly outweigh any potential risks posed by citizens who might fertilize late in the season (during rainy periods).

The rain season fertilization blackout effectively reduces runoff into our waterways, thereby minimizing contamination of Hernando County's springs, rivers, and ocean. Fertilizer runoff can severely disrupt aquatic life, leading to issues such as harmful algae blooms, which have adversely affected water quality and coastal areas in neighboring counties. This concern is especially pronounced with synthetic fertilizers, which present an entirely different set of challenges.

Moreover, applying fertilizers during peak rainy seasons is not only damaging to our waterways due to runoff but is also a wasteful use of resources. Fertilizers applied under such conditions wash away quickly and fail to achieve their intended purpose. There are many other times throughout the year when fertilizers can be used more effectively.

Maintaining the current ordinance will not adversely affect citizens who are responsibly caring for their lawns and gardens during the appropriate seasons.

Please help us protect our clean water for both our families and wildlife. Thank you.*