

**From:** "Dante Salas" <dsalas@grundfos.com>  
**Subject:** Regulatory strategy and new rules to restore the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers  
**Date:** Oct 28, 2024 at 10:11:20 PM  
**To:** "OWP\_rulemaking@floridadep.gov" <OWP\_rulemaking@floridadep.gov>

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**EXTERNAL MESSAGE**

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Dear Members of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection,

I have been a Florida resident since I was 10 years old (I am now 46) and have worked in the water well industry for approximately 16 years. The purpose of this letter is to express my deep concern regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) proposal to ban the installation of new private wells for irrigation. Based on my extensive experience in this industry across North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, I can assure you that if this ban is enacted, it would have catastrophic consequences for both the micro and macro economies of Florida, including its workforce. This would mark the beginning of the extinction of water well drillers and the water well industry in our state. Conversely, I also recognize that inaction could lead to disastrous outcomes. Please be assured that I fully support the need to respect, conserve, and protect our natural resources. However, I believe there are more effective ways to address the need to conserve our water reservoirs than simply imposing a ban. I urge the FDEP to collaborate with local water well experts to develop a comprehensive long-term solution, as these professionals possess a deeper understanding of our geology than anyone else. I implore the FDEP to re-evaluate the proposed rule to ban new private wells for irrigation and to convene a meeting with the local water well community and all stakeholders to devise a more equitable solution for everyone involved.

Kind regards,

**Dante A. Salas**  
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