



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Jonathan P. Steverson
Secretary

January 20, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol, Plaza Level 05
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from my position as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection effective February 3, 2017.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you and the people of the great state of Florida in this role for the last two years. In this time, the Department has worked tirelessly to meet our vision of creating strong community partnerships, safeguarding Florida's natural resources and enhancing its ecosystems. Your leadership and laser focus on actually completing projects that improve the environment and people's quality of life provided the foundation and motivation for the Department's success in those endeavors.

Your efforts have also led to historic levels of funding for Everglades restoration and springs protection, including ensuring a dedicated source of funding for these critical waterbodies. The Department will continue to ensure those dollars are spent effectively and efficiently to achieve the greatest environmental benefit.

Two years ago, Department leadership set a strategic goal of partnering with communities and businesses to protect natural resources and promote economic growth. Our focus on this goal can be seen throughout the agency, predominantly with the recent creation of the Division of Water Restoration Assistance. The Department now boasts a Division that focuses solely on meeting the needs of our communities by helping them obtain the many grant opportunities you've worked hard to make available to them.

Another area of the agency that has seen significant improvement, thanks to your support, is in the long-term planning, restoration and maintenance of our natural resources. We've invested record funding in the management and restoration of the nearly 800,000

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acres entrusted to us through Florida's renowned state park system, and we owe it to future generations to show them "the Real Florida."

Finally, I would like to personally thank you for your commitment to fighting for the families of Northwest Florida who depend on the Apalachicola River and Bay for their livelihood. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the extraordinary original action you initiated in the U.S. Supreme Court. Through this bold action, you clearly demonstrated that the state of Florida will staunchly protect our environment and our people.

It has truly been an honor to serve as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, working under your leadership and alongside nearly 3,000 dedicated employees to safeguard Florida's natural resources for future generations.

If I can ever be of service to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by several loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonathan P. Steverson
Secretary

cc: Kim McDougal
Karl Rasmussen