



August 15, 2014

Governor Rick Scott  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

On August 4, you kicked off your “Let’s Keep Florida Beautiful” campaign in Palm City, Florida.

You said that Florida’s rivers like the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie River should be protected.

You said that our natural resources give Florida its distinction and they, too, should be protected.

You’re talking the talk but will you walk the walk? Show us by taking three specific actions that only you can take.

It’s urgent. The first action step must be taken by August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Without your actions the beautiful **Halpatiokee Trails of Savannas Preserve State Park** will be destroyed and the **North Fork of the St. Lucie River Aquatic State Preserve** will be degraded by the construction of a bridge in Port St. Lucie through these areas.

**Action Step #1:** Deny the city of Port St. Lucie access to the Preserves for any and all survey and other pre-construction projects. (Note: this letter’s signatories have filed a lawsuit against the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Transportation over improperly permitting this bridge. No project activity or expenditure of taxpayer monies should take place before the outcome of our lawsuit is determined. )

**Action Step #2:** Direct the FDEP to tell the city to choose another route for the bridge. Out of all the choices, their preferred route is the most environmentally destructive. It will destroy the **most and highest quality wetlands, according the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

The project area serves as a **vital aquatic buffer zone for the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon. Threatened, endangered, and rare native flora and fauna depend on this area.**

**Action Step #3:** Inspire your cabinet members that serve on the Acquisition and Restoration Council to deny the city easement to use these state park lands for the incompatible purpose of road infrastructure. *Remember that taxpayer money set aside for conservation was used to purchase this land.*

Halpaticoochee Trails closes its gate on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Destruction begins on that date.  
Will you “keep Florida beautiful” by preserving this very unique and beautiful spot?

Sincerely,

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