



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**SENATOR LINDA STEWART**  
13th District

**COMMITTEES:**  
Environmental Preservation and  
Conservation, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment  
and Natural Resources  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher  
Education  
Education  
Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

August 16, 2018

## Environmental Roundtable

The office of Senator Stewart is working on filing a new environmental bill for this upcoming legislative session as well as refile bills from the previous legislative session that did not make it into law. Senator Stewart will also be working with other Senators by Co-Sponsoring, Co-Priming, and pushing for multiple environmental bills throughout session.

### NEW BILL

- Working on developing a bill and Co-priming with Senator Book on reinstating the regulations regarding water quality that were stripped away under Governor Scott.

### BILLS TO BE RE-FILED

- SB 1014: Recyclable Materials
  - A bill to allow local governments to decide on the use of auxiliary containers.
  - Plastic bags, Styrofoam, and other plastic packaging
- SB 156: Florida Black Bears
  - This bill forbids hunting of black bears that are nursing cubs weighing less than 100lbs.
  - The bill also defines the harvesting of saw palmetto berries from state lands as petit theft of the second degree
- SB 316: Environmental Regulation Commission
  - Would require the Governor to appoint a new member to the commission within a certain timeframe after the occurrence of a vacancy; providing an effective date.

**REPLY TO:**

- 1726 S. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32806 (407) 893-2422 FAX: (888) 263-3680
- 205 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5013

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**JOE NEGRON**  
President of the Senate

**ANITERE FLORES**  
President Pro Tempore

## CO-SPONSOR/PRIME

- SB 464: Co-Prime of the little Wekiva Bill (Sen. Bracy)
  - Sen. Bracy will be filing and we will be aiding in pushing the bill
  - Bill calls for appropriation of \$5 million dollars annually to the St. Johns River Management District to aid in the restoration, enhancement, and management of the headwaters and associated wetlands of the Little Wekiva River.
- Bill to ban the hydraulic fracturing process for extraction of natural gas and oil in the state.
- A bill with Senator Berman in regards to septic systems
- A bill with Senator Book, which focuses on prevention of lead in drinking water in schools. Particularly those built before  
(Senate Bill Numbers referenced are from the 2018 Legislative Session)

In 2018 Senator Stewart was able to acquire, through SB 370, a reoccurring appropriation that would place 100 million dollars in the Florida Forever Trust fund. Another 50 million would be set aside specifically for springs restoration projects and 5 million for the St. Johns River.

Recently Senator Stewart called upon Governor Scott to rescind his executive orders, numbers 11-01 and 11-72, which have allowed for deregulation of protective measures that safeguarded Florida's waterways. Governor Scott's actions have had tremendous negative impact on the quality of our waterways and have led to our current ecological crisis.

Suggested steps that legislators could take to protect our waters from toxic algal blooms

- We need to revisit water quality criteria from the past that have been weakened and make sure that we include standards on sediments which are often major sources of nutrients to bodies of water such as the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie.
- The phase out of surface water discharges should be a goal to stop this algal bloom crisis. Dairy farms are allowed to let waste flow across pastures in ditches that eventually lead to bodies of water such as Lake Okeechobee.
- We need to adopt Human Health Toxics Criteria to truly determine what waters are impaired by toxic chemicals, especially from agricultural and storm water runoff
- Impose legislation that would not allow use of septic systems within 1.5 miles of impaired bodies of water. Requirements for inspections on septic systems every 5 years and that septic systems must be pumped out before homes change hands.

If you have further suggestions or comments please feel free to email the office at [stewart.linda.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:stewart.linda.web@flsenate.gov)