

# Board of County Commissioners

## Okeechobee County



304 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Room 123  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 763-6441 or Fax: 863-763-0118

May 3, 2017  
via email transmission to: [ethan.abner@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethan.abner@mail.house.gov)

Congressman Thomas J. Rooney  
District 17 - Okeechobee Office  
304 NW 2nd Street Room 105  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Re: Aging Water Infrastructures

Dear Congressman Rooney:

As the County Administrator to the Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, I am personally writing this letter to offer strong support of your efforts to restore Congress' Constitutional authority to make the necessary investments on our country's aging water infrastructures with respect to vetted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects.

I commend you on your efforts to lift the moratorium on congressional-directed authorization for water and coastal infrastructure projects. Our local economy depends on the work of the Army Corps, which is responsible for the Lake Okeechobee Dike. The safety of the dike is paramount as well as the quality of the water that enters the lake from Central Florida. Billions of dollars have been allocated to manage the water quality entering the Lake from Central Florida and the associated projects must be completed without hesitation and this can only be accomplished by lifting the moratorium.

The current permitted projects will provide a positive impact to not only the tourism economy of the communities around the Lake, but also to the coastal communities. If your proposed legislation were to pass it would have significant impact on the completion of the fore mentioned projects. I support your efforts to establish limited exceptions to the earmark moratorium for these economically vital water resource development projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robbie Chartier".

Robbie Chartier  
County Administrator  
RLC/tlr

cc: [sherry.mccorkle@mail.house.gov](mailto:sherry.mccorkle@mail.house.gov)

David Hazellief  
District 1

Bryant H. Culpepper  
District 2

Bradley G. Goodbread  
District 3

Terry Burroughs  
District 4

Kelly Owens  
District 5