

DRAFT LETTERS

To: Governor DeSantis

To: Representative Will Robinson

To: Senator Gruters

The City of Venice, in response to the extensive and lengthy outbreak of red tide, has reviewed several proposals concerning the monitoring and reduction of various nutrients that enter our Gulf waters. Through public meetings, informed sources have indicated that humans can have a major impact on the amount of nutrient pollution which is believed to be linked to the severity of red tide.

In Venice, we have increased the monitoring of discharge into our creeks and the Gulf. Further, we have set a goal of 100% commercial and residential connection to our city sewer system.

While there now remains only a handful of homes on a septic system in the City of Venice, there are approximately 6,000 private septic systems which adjoin the city and may have a direct and negative impact on nutrient pollution of our creeks and the Gulf. In 2014 Florida had an estimated 500,000 broken septic tanks that were sending waste into ground and surface water. The nutrients found in human waste feed algae blooms and fecal coliform bacteria is a known health hazard.

Therefore, the Venice City Council supports Representative Robinson's HB85- **Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems**. This bill directs the Department of Health to identify certain information for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, update the database of such systems, and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature. It requires periodic inspection of septic systems and directs the DOH to administer an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspection program and adopt corresponding rules. The DOH will provide inspection requirements and exceptions. The bill will require owners to pay the costs of inspections and pump-outs that must be performed by certain registered contractors. The DOH will further provide notice requirements and require a system disclosure summary for certain properties. Acknowledgement of such disclosures by purchaser before or at the execution of a contract for sale will be required.

The Venice City Council further supports the companion bill, SB214 introduced to the Senate by Senator Gruters, SB214- **Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems**. This bill directs the Department of Health to identify certain information for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, update the current database of such systems, and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date. It requires owners of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to have such systems periodically inspected and requires an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system disclosure summary for certain properties before or at the execution of a contract for sale, etc.

Water quality and red tide issues continue to be a priority in the City of Venice. Our Council is committed to monitoring and improving all discharges into our creeks and the Gulf with the goal of eliminating nutrients that feed algae blooms and cause health hazards.

Sincerely,