

FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL REQUESTS \$300 MILLION IN 2015-2016 STATE BUDGET  
FOR SPRINGS PROTECTION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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GAINESVILLE, FL – On February 12, 2015, the Florida Springs Council sent letters to 13 key Florida legislators requesting that the State allocate \$300 million for springs protection and restoration in the 2015-2016 State budget. The letter briefly highlights past spending on springs and the termination of key programs such as the Florida Springs Initiative. Although spending has increased for water projects such as the Central Florida Water Initiative and Everglades restoration, oversight for the spending of funds for springs has diminished along with the health of Florida’s waters. As a result, regulations designed to protect our springs over the last 20 years have gone unenforced due to a lack of funding. The Council urges the legislature to use funding “to purchase sensitive lands with high re-charge value in springsheds, to mitigate the most polluting sources with conservation easements, and to provide for well-crafted projects increasing spring flow while decreasing pollution at the source.”

To view a full text of the Council’s letter, visit [http://springsforever.org/?page\\_id=493](http://springsforever.org/?page_id=493).

List of legislators contacted by the Florida Springs Council:

Sen. Andy Gardiner  
President, Florida Senate

Sen. Charles Dean, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Restoration

Sen. Tom Lee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Sen. Alan Hays, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

Sen. David Simmons, Chair  
Senate Rules Committee

Sen. Bill Montford, Chair  
Senate Agriculture Committee

Speaker Steve Crisafulli  
Florida House of Representatives

Rep. Matt Caldwell, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

Rep. Clovis Watson, Jr., Ranking Member  
House State Affairs Committee

Rep. Richard Corcoran, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations

Rep, Janet Cruz, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations

Rep. Ben Albritton, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Rep. Kristin Diane Jacobs, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

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