



June 18, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

It has been twenty-four years since Lake County has been represented on the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board. As business leaders in Lake County, we believe it time to rectify that. Considering the powerful role they play in the protection of water resources in our state and our county, it is shameful that Lake County has been so under represented.

As you know, much of Lake County is within the St. Johns district, which includes all or part of 17 other Florida nearby counties. Like much of the rest of the counties within the St. Johns district, Lake County's drinking water supply comes from below ground.

That's a finite supply of water that the St. Johns district is responsible for protecting. And all Lake County residents should want that water supply protected.

When you consider that Lake County is part of two of the district's three water supply planning areas, includes part of one of the district's most significant environmental restoration projects – Lake Apopka, and is home to 31 of the 96 springs that the district has documented, it becomes painfully obvious how overdue Lake County is for representation on the St. Johns board.

We ask that you respectfully provide Lake County representation on the St. Johns board by appointing one of our residents.

Sincerely,

Orin Owen, President
Chamber Alliance of Lake County