

Tom Harmer  
Town Manager  
501 Bay Isles Road  
Longboat Key, FL 34228

February 2, 2021

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I write to you today regarding the Consent Order placed on your town by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), as a result of substantial wastewater overflow in June 2020.

It is my understand that Longboat Key has requested three deadline extensions to sign the DEP's Consent Order and the final deadline is approaching on February 22, 2021. While I recognize that the Consent Order was revised on January 6, 2021 to reflect additional mangrove mortality, I was hoping you could provide a clearer picture behind the cause and necessity of each of these extension requests. Additionally, if you are able to provide an update on the progress of moving towards overall rectification of your town's wastewater system, that would be much appreciated.

If a lack in resources is a key source of prevention for signing the Consent Order, I would implore you to provide greater detail on what resources are necessary to carry out compliance. Further, should funding be an issue in executing the consent order, I would also urge you to consider looking into [requesting federal appropriations](#) or grants through the Environmental Protection Agency. Your town may be eligible for [certain federal grants](#) to assist with environmental clean- up. While I understand that this is a daunting and expensive task, it is clearly of paramount importance to restoring our communities' water supply, health, and trust in public officials.

I look forward to your swift response informing of the status of your rectification efforts and any details regarding a need for resources. We all want and deserve a reliable and efficient wastewater system and to ensure is never repeated. I stand ready to assist in my capacity as a federal legislator and fellow Floridian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. J. Stueb", written in a cursive style.

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress