



May 14, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for federal partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the Myakka River

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

Big Waters Land Trust is a 501(c)3 based in Osprey Florida. Our service area is from the southern edge of Tampa Bay to the northern extent of the Everglades, working in 9 counties. The Myakka River and watershed, its state park and associated habitats have been central to our work as a land conservation organization.

In our 20 years of doing this work, we have protected 63 parcels totaling more than 20,000 acres in Southwest Florida. Among the most important are 9 parcels, 2,426 acres, on the Myakka. Of those, we own 3 parcels, 499 acres. These lands clean the waters that we drink and that support habitats and wildlife; the waters that fill our bays where shellfish and fin fish grow, and people recreate. These lands and the river they support are critically important to this region's environment and economy, our way of life.

We support federal Wild and Scenic River designation for our river. We understand that this designation will not interfere with our property rights or individual property use.

Thank you for your time and consideration; please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Christine P. Johnson
President

CC: The Honorable Tom Tiffany, Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Lands
The Honorable Joe Neguse, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Federal Lands