May 1, 2023

Governor Ron DeSantis
The Florida Capitol
400 S. Monroe St., Plaza Level
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Delivered via email to GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

RE: VETO HB 1191 “USE OF PHOSPHOGYPSUM”

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We, the 35 below-signed organizations and businesses, ask you to veto HB 1191 (Use of Phosphogypsum). Phosphogypsum is the radioactive waste from processing phosphate into phosphoric acid for fertilizer. This bill would permit the use of phosphogypsum in Florida road construction.

While HB 1191 would require the Florida Department of Transportation to complete a study on the feasibility of phosphogypsum for road construction, the unreasonably short study period ending on April 1, 2024, cannot even begin to thoroughly review the health and safety consequences. To even begin the study would be a tremendous waste of Florida taxpayer dollars; EPA has already extensively studied the use of phosphogypsum in roads and concluded it is not safe.

Water quality and public health are especially threatened by HB 1191: Phosphogypsum is radioactive, releasing cancer-causing radon gas. It can also contain other carcinogens and toxic, heavy metals like antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, sulfur, thallium, and zinc. Phosphogypsum presents very high levels of gross alpha and beta radiation, 10 to 100 picocuries per gram (pCi/g), relative to levels in typical soils which are approximately 1 pCi/g.

- EPA has prohibited the use of phosphogypsum in roads since 1992 because it found numerous scenarios that would expose the public — particularly road construction workers — to an unacceptably dangerous cancer risk. EPA found that phosphogypsum “contains appreciable quantities of radium-226, uranium, and other uranium decay products.” Radium-226 has a 1,600-year half-life and will outlive many roads throughout the state.
- EPA found that the use of phosphogypsum in roads can cause adverse effects to nearby surface and groundwater resources through leaching of trace metals and radionuclides and that these toxins may also be resuspended into the air by wind and vehicle traffic.

Using radioactive phosphogypsum in roads is not a solution to the fertilizer industry’s toxic waste problem. Florida should not be a test subject in the industry’s reckless experiment.

To protect the health and safety of Florida residents, and to preserve water and air quality across the state, we respectfully ask that you VETO HB 1191.
Sincerely,

**ASBRO LLC**
E. Allen Stewart III P.E.
Principal Manager

**Atchafalaya Basinkeeper**
Dean Wilson
Executive Director

**Catalyst Miami**
Zelalem Adefris
Chief Executive Officer

**Center for Biological Diversity**
Ragan Whitlock
Staff Attorney

**Concerned Citizens of Bayshore Community, Inc.**
Steven Brodkin
Vice President/Secretary

**Defenders of Wildlife**
Elizabeth Fleming
Senior Florida Representative

**Environmental Coalition of Southwest Florida (ECOSWF)**
Becky Ayech
President

**Florida Water Conservation Trust**
Terry Brant
Legislative Affairs

**Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America**
Michael F. Chenoweth
President

**Florida Oceanographic Society**
Mark Perry
Executive Director and CEO

**Florida Springs Council**
Ryan Smart
Executive Director

**Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**
Josh Weller
President

**Friends of the Everglades**
Eve Samples
Executive Director

**Friends of Warm Mineral Springs, Inc.**
Juliette Jones
Director

**Heal Our Harbor**
Dr. Richard Whitman
Director

**Healthy Gulf**
Christian Wagley
Coastal Organizer, Florida-Alabama

**IDEAS For Us**
Caroline Chomanics
Chief Operating Officer

**La Mesa Boricua of Florida**
Maria Revelles
Co-Director

**Lake Worth Waterkeeper**
Reinaldo Diaz
Waterkeeper

**League of Women Voters of Florida**
Cecile Scoon
President

**ManaSota-88, Inc.**
Glenn Compton
Chairman
Peace Myakka Waterkeeper
Andre Mele
President

People for Protecting Peace River
Brooks Armstrong
President

River Rise Resort, LLC
Jane Blais
Managing Owner

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Matt DePaolis
Environmental Policy Director

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association, Inc.
Jill McGuire
President

Sea Turtle Conservancy
Stacey Gallagher
Policy Coordinator

Sierra Club Florida
Emily Gorman
Chapter Director

START (Solutions To Avoid Red Tide)
Sandy Gilbert
Chief Executive Officer

Stone Crab Alliance
Karen Dwyer, Ph.D.
Co-founder

Suncoast Waterkeeper
Abby Tyrna
Waterkeeper & Executive Director

Surfrider Foundation
Emma Haydoci
Florida Policy Manager

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper
Justin Tramble
Executive Director

The Institute for Regional Conservation
George Gann
Chair of the Board

Tropical Audubon Society
Lauren Jonaitis
Senior Conservation Director