

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Water Quality

- iv. Letters to Representatives Oberstar, Mica, Johnson, Boozman, Bishop, LoBiondo, Buchanan and Congressman Connie Mack, regarding Clean Estuaries Act, HR 4715 (Vice Mayor Ruane)

March 25, 2010



## City of Sanibel

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The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
United States House of Representatives  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Clean Estuaries Act, HR 4715

Dear Congressman Onberstar;

The City of Sanibel, Florida strongly supports the reauthorization of the National Estuary Program and seeks your leadership in advocating passage of the Clean Estuaries Act, HR4715. Sanibel Island is located within the Charlotte Harbor Estuary and is a world-class travel destination where water quality is inextricably linked to our economic vitality. As a member of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Management Conference, we greatly appreciate your past support in efforts to reauthorize the National Estuary Program (NEP), established by Congress in 1987 to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance.

The waters of Charlotte Harbor are an estuary of national importance and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program based in Fort Myers has been instrumental in bringing a diverse range of stakeholders together to address a myriad of challenges and threats to local water quality, our seagrasses, mangrove forests and fisheries. These continuing protective efforts are needed now more than ever as nutrient pollutants entering the estuary from upstream risk the triggering of algae blooms that can be economically devastating to coastal communities such as Sanibel.

We seek your commitment to gaining final passage of this bill and moving it to the President's desk for signature.

Sincerely,

Vice Mayor Kevin Ruane  
City of Sanibel

Cc: Sanibel City Council  
Judie Zimomra, City manager  
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney  
Dr. Rob Loflin, Natural Resources Director