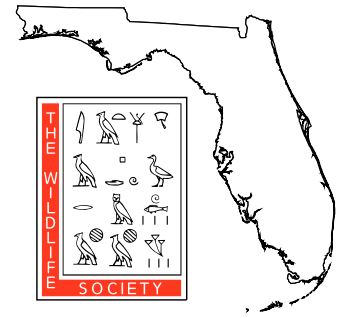


Florida Chapter  
**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
www.fltws.org



March 12, 2014

Senator Charles S. Dean, Sr.  
State Senator, District 5  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Senator Dean:

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and management of Florida's wildlife resources. Our members are professional wildlife biologists, educators, and/or researchers, and we routinely take positions on issues that may affect Florida's fish and wildlife resources. In this regard, we wish to thank you and offer support to your sponsorship of Florida's Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (SB1576).

This bill, if judiciously implemented, would help improve the water quality and water quantity of Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS) that are currently impaired by excessive nutrient loading and various consumptive uses. We feel that the proposed measures within this bill would provide significant fish and wildlife benefits as well.

While this bill contains several approaches for achievement of OFS protection, perhaps the most noteworthy is the required connection of specified onsite sewage treatment systems (i.e. septic tanks) to central sewage treatment systems within identified spring management zones. Septic tanks were preferable sewage treatment systems to replace "outhouses", but they do not provide sufficient treatment in areas with a dense population and vulnerable water sources. As a result, septic systems, as well as other sources of nutrients, have altered water quality and significantly impacted the aquatic resources of ground and surface waters in Florida's springsheds.

We request that you take all steps necessary to keep the language of this bill strong and meaningful. Perhaps comparable legislation can be proposed in the future that will address other water bodies in Florida that are similarly impaired.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please contact me ([erin.myers@fltws.org](mailto:erin.myers@fltws.org)) if you have any questions, or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

Erin Myers, DVM, MS  
President  
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society