

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my support for Specific Appropriation **19341** for funds to be provided for the Gulf Shellfish Institute - Clams & Seagrass Restoration – Three estuaries SW Florida (HB 9161) (Senate Form 1510). I am respectfully requesting your support of this appropriation when you review and sign House Bill 5001,

You have made historic steps in Florida’s fight to protect water quality and conserve the state’s natural resources. The Clean Waterways Act, SB 712, is a prime example; and demonstrates a pledge that clean water is a top priority.

Restoring seagrass meadows and clam populations will improve water quality, reduce algal blooms, and create healthier commercial and recreational fishery habitats in Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and Charlotte Harbor estuaries. This funding will provide the framework and resources necessary for a team of industry experts, managers, and scientists to implement planting efforts, evaluate the environmental response and demonstrate the comprehensive impacts of the clams and seagrass. This innovative ground-truth science will quantify large-scale water quality improvements and benefits to seagrass communities.

Governor, please take this opportunity to provide funds to ensure a healthy, thriving future for the Gulf Coast & all of Florida.

Sincerely,