

A rare "Action Alert" was sent out statewide by the Florida Native Plant Society asking members to oppose a "bad bill" making its way through the state legislature.

SB (Senate Bill) 768 and HB (House Bill) 789 are the legislature's next step towards ending citizen engagement by requiring concerned citizens to pay the state's legal bills if they challenge a permitting decision made by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or one of the five Water Management Districts, and then lose their challenge.

SB 738 and HB 789 would impose prohibitive financial burdens on Floridians who challenge environmental permitting decisions, and thereby preclude their participation in important decisions that threaten local natural resources and other quality-of-life issues.

It's a state-sponsored financial terror effort aimed at discouraging citizens from challenging lax environmental regulation.

Senate Judiciary Committee

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House Water Quality, Supply and Treatment Subcommittee

Cyndi Stevenson, Chair: Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov or (850) 717-5018

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Florida is blessed with natural beauty and natural resources. It is cursed by developers who want to exploit and destroy them and complicit politicians. Two (more) recent legislative developments exemplify how Florida is a state run for and by developers.

Florida developers and politicians are looking at ways to [skirt state laws which restrict the amount of development in the Florida Keys](#). These laws have been on the books for decades and are intended to allow for complete and safe evacuation of the Keys in the event of a catastrophic hurricane.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/18/in-the-florida-keys-a-fight-over-adding-more-residents-to-evacuate/>

Another bill would reduce the time period local governments have to [review building permits](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/11/florida-legislators-want-to-cut-building-permit-times-despite-safety-risk/>

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Is state government run by the wealthy and fossil fuel interests? There's a bill proposed to expand tax credits on the sale of private jets, undeniable the least environmentally-conscious way to travel.

LINK: <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=78849>

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