

Florida's Senate president is [bought and paid for by Big Sugar](#). Fact.

The struggle for environmental protection in Florida pits conservations against the wealthiest, most powerful individuals, politicians and businesses in this state. That's why conservation typically loses.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/02/24/floridas-senate-president-is-working-for-one-client-big-sugar/>

What can stop these forces? Only [vocal and near uniform local activism](#) in the face of such outrages, as has been the case recently in Citrus north of Tampa where residents have been showing up to oppose new proposed toll roads... Florida sure loves to build roads, and mow grass. It may be the two things our state and local governments do best.

LINK: [https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/anti-build-crowd-drives-home-opposition-to-county-board/article\\_39f11599-3211-5005-b609-a7e8f3437ed3.html](https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/anti-build-crowd-drives-home-opposition-to-county-board/article_39f11599-3211-5005-b609-a7e8f3437ed3.html)

Same thing happened close to Tallahassee last week where city commissioners wanted to rezone land near Wakulla Springs to allow for a giant gas station to be built there. Residents opposed en masse and have [halted the rezoning for now](#).

LINK: <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2022/02/22/activists-to-remain-vigilant-after-wakulla-gas-station-car-wash-proposal-pulled-at-last-minute/6894995001/>

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Efforts to remove the Kirkpatrick Dam, draw down Rodman Reservoir, and restore a free-flowing Ocklawaha River are gaining national attention as American Rivers – the country's leading rivers advocacy organization – placed the project on [its "watch" list for potential dam removal in 2022](#). If you're interested in learning more about the myriad benefits to dam removal and free-flowing rivers generally, American Rivers is a great place to start.

LINK: <https://www.americanrivers.org/2022/02/25-dams-to-watch-in-2022/>

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[An American Flamingo was photographed](#) at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on Marco Island recently. These are the first photos of the bird and give hope that this species once common in the area can make a return.

<https://twitter.com/FLDEPNews/status/1497233036110450693>

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Speaking of rivers, last week [on my "Welcome to Florida" podcast](#), I learned all about William Bartram and the St. John's River.

LISTEN: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-87-william-bartram-and-the-st-johns-river-90670781>