

[Good conservation news out of Tallahassee](#) for a change where the governor signed into law a bill preventing the mass release of balloons across the state. With all of its coastline, balloon ingestion and entanglement can be deadly to marine life.

LINK: <https://oceanconservancy.org/news/statement-florida-signs-statewide-balloon-release-ban-into-law/>

On the other hand, DeSantis vetoed legislation that would have required [health warnings about waterborne bacterial contamination](#) across the state, making it easier for swimmers, boaters and anyone else in or around the ocean and waterways to learn if there's something dangerous in the water.

DeSantis' record regarding clean water in Florida continues to be abysmal, and this veto seeks to hide the problem. The bill passed out of the legislature unanimously.

LINK: <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2024/06/29/desantis-vetoes-bill-to-improve-public-warnings-about-bacteria-contaminating-beaches-public-waterways/>

The worst news this week, however, unquestionably came at the federal level from the Supreme Court which leveled a devastating one-two punch in a pair of rulings that weaken environmental regulation and severely threaten human health.

First, the Court halted an attempt by the Environmental Protection Agency to [reduce harmful air pollution that drifts across state lines](#). Of course, air pollution doesn't respect arbitrary state boundaries, and the EPA would like to regulate polluters in, say, West Virginia, when their pollution drifts over to, say, Pennsylvania.

The court "fast tracked" its decision which environmental say threatens the future of what is known as the US's "good neighbor" pollution regulations. The ruling was a victory for heavy industry, mining, and emphysema and a loss for clean air.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2024/jun/27/supreme-court-epa-pollution-ruling?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

[Air pollution](#) is the second leading risk factor for death worldwide.

LINK: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/report-says-air-pollution-is-now-the-2nd-leading-global-risk-factor-for-death/ar-BB1oxbcX>

The Supreme Court's other knockdown of the environment came in what is known as the "Chevron" decision and upended decades of precedent governing the ability of federal agencies to set regulations. Not just environmental regulations, but regulations across a wide swath of the economy.

The decision is a huge gift to corporations and shifts policymaking power from expert agencies to the courts, essentially stating that government experts have no more credibility when making decisions related to the purview of their agencies than courts do.

The ruling is a major power grab by the judiciary branch.

LINK: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-courts-overturning-40-year-chevron-ruling-win-trump-deregulation-rcna159589>

In both cases, the court split primarily along its conservative/liberal lines. Bear in mind, the conservative majority on the court was achieved during the Donald Trump administration, and the judges his administration nominated – not just on the Supreme Court, but across the federal level – take a generally anti-environment, anti-regulation, pro-industry, pro-pollution positions.

And speaking of Trump, during Thursday's debate, he stated, "During my four years, I had the best environmental numbers ever."

The exact opposite is true. Trump was the most anti-environmental president in U.S. history, rolling back 100+ environmental protections – including major clean air, clean water, and endangered species protections that stood for decades – while giving handouts to Big Oil, among other polluting industries.

LINK: <https://www.lcvictoryfund.org/trump-record/>

He also said he wants “absolutely immaculate clean water” and “absolutely clean air.”

His actions contradict his words. That's what is known as telling a lie.

LINK: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/05/25/supreme-court-epa-wetlands/>