

Devastating news for the environment federally with the Supreme Court voting 5-4 to [severely weaken the Clean Water Act](#). This is a catastrophic loss for water protections across the country and a win for big polluters, putting communities, public health, and local ecosystems in danger.

Florida Senator Rick Scott was a key supporter of the lawsuit placing the interests of development and property owners over the environment and clean water.

The ruling is particularly disastrous for wetlands and springs – are there any of those in Florida?

LINK: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/supreme-court-clean-water-act-rollback\\_n\\_6470df8ae4b091b09c2cdf13](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/supreme-court-clean-water-act-rollback_n_6470df8ae4b091b09c2cdf13)

Not to be upstaged by the enviro-villains on the Supreme Court, Ron DeSantis signed into law the worst piece of anti-environmental legislation put before him by the state legislature.

Friends of the Everglades describes Senate Bill 540 thusly: “a death knell for smart growth in Florida. It will effectively end citizen challenges to comprehensive plan amendments by saddling those who challenge an amendment and lose with the other side’s legal fees — including developers’ attorney fees if they join the case.”

The bill is a favor to developers, a threat to citizens and conservation organizations burdening them with the opposing side’s legal fees should they challenge a Comp Plan decision and lose. This bill now makes it almost impossible for citizens to bring legal challenges against environmentally dangerous projects.

Remember when DeSantis ran for governor the first time as a “conservationist?” Did you believe him?

LINK: <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2023/05/26/actions-not-words-desantis-is-environments-enemy-editorial/>

In addition to handing the state over to developers, the legislature found time in the most recent session to [award millions of dollars of tax breaks to fossil fuel companies](#).

LINK: <https://www.energyandpolicy.org/florida-legislature-hands-out-millions-in-tax-cuts-to-fossil-fuel-companies/>

Turn off your lights, recycle, plant natives, sure, but this is more evidence that conservation begins in the voting booth. The Republican Party as it exists today nationally and in Florida is an enemy of the planet. If you value the planet, and animals and plants, and natural spaces and clean water and clean air, remember that on election day.

---

[Restoring a barrier island forest](#) may be key to protecting South Florida from storm surge. More proof that green infrastructure – mangroves, dunes, coral reefs, oyster beds, native plants – is superior to grey infrastructure – sea walls, pumps, dikes, levees, walls.

Not to mention its ancillary benefits for supporting biodiversity and vastly lower cost.

LINK: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/climate-change/article275697746.html>

Salt marshes are another critical natural barrier from storm surge and hurricane damage. Federal, state, local and military officials are looking at a plan to [protect 1 million acres of salt marsh](#) which will protect coastal communities from Florida to North Carolina.

LINK: [https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/05/16/new-plan-would-save-future-of-1-million-acres-of-salt-marshes-along-southeast-us-coast?utm\\_campaign=2023-05-16+SFN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/05/16/new-plan-would-save-future-of-1-million-acres-of-salt-marshes-along-southeast-us-coast?utm_campaign=2023-05-16+SFN&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE)