

Dave Lukasek

Casani cites all these pollution problems and how they have gotten worse in recent years. Well, John, the EPA has been around, and growing in power rapidly. So what good have they been? Sure, we need some regulations, but it's obvious that a massive, faceless bureaucracy which creates its own rules is NOT the answer.

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Joseph Blough ·

Florida SouthWestern State College

The EPA is toothless anyway. In fact, they appear to be their own worst enemy

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John Capece ·

Works at Southern DataStream

EPA delegated water quality authority in the form of BMAPs and MS4s to the states. As an oversight agency EPA has too often kowtowed to Congress and state politicians. They have had little choice given limitations imposed by Congress and by some presidential administrations. But because EPA has been losing to big business and municipal interests does not mean they should be dismantled. Quite the opposite. They need to be strenghteed. I've worked with EPA and state officials on projects. EPA needed to be far stronger in backing the proper approaches. My sense was that the EPA officials were under orders to "play nice" with state agencies and therefore EPA simply suggested to the state agencies that they do the right things. Florida, of course, generally ignores the advice and ploughs ahead in unwise directions.

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Dave Lukasek

So, you're telling me that, for eight years, the Obama administration "held back" the EPA. I've got a nice bridge to sell you in Brooklyn.

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John Capece ·

Works at Southern DataStream

First, all my relatives are from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. In all my visits they always acted as if they already owned that bridge...and the Verrazano as well. New Yorkers! ☹

My comments about EPA reflect experience over several presidential administrations, not just Obama. It is the case that from a Florida perspective, EPA under Obama was much like EPA under Bush II. . Both exercised very little authority over our current, most pressing set of water quality problems - those derived from non-point pollution sources, which lead to algae blooms and general ecosystem degradation. This lack of sufficient progress on Florida non-point water pollution applies to the Clinton, Bush I, and Reagan Administrations as well. EPA generally works through state agencies, Florida DEP in our case. Since 1999 Republican governors have set the tone and limits of Florida DEP. So, for a very long time EPA has had little opportunity to help achieve progress in our state.

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Mike Downing ·

3M Health Care Director at Retired

I too support the EPA and Florida's DEP in theory. In practice I no longer support the EPA and Florida's DEP. I have come to this conclusion based on the EPA's & DEP's lack of leadership on the discharges from Lake O and the environmental impact on the West and East Coasts of South Florida as well as the lack of leadership on demanding Cape Coral replace the Ceitus Barrier.

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