

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 7776
OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA**

At the end of title II, add the following:

1 **SEC. 2 ____ . CORPS OF ENGINEERS INSPECTOR GENERAL IN-**
2 **VESTIGATION.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) On May 21, 2021, Major General William
5 Graham, Jacksonville District Commander Colonel
6 Andrew Kelly, First Lieutenant Martin Figueroa,
7 Captain Rhys Hearn, Mark Rankin, and Erica
8 Skolte visited the S-380 structure at Lake Okeechobee, Florida, with Representative Mast.

10 (2) During the S-380 structure visit, large
11 amounts of blue-green algae were present, creating
12 an intense stench and insufferable conditions for
13 those working at the structure.

14 (3) On May 24, 2021, Representative Mast sent
15 a letter to Acting Secretary of the Army John E.
16 Whitley expressing concerns about the conditions
17 Corps of Engineers personnel face when working
18 around Lake Okeechobee during a harmful algal
19 bloom, and requested that the Corps of Engineers

1 take steps to protect Corps personnel when algae
2 blooms testing above the Environmental Protection
3 Agency's guidance of 8 parts per billion microcystin
4 are present.

5 (4) On June 1, 2021, Representative Mast met
6 virtually with Acting Assistant Secretary of the
7 Army for Civil Works Jaime Pinkham regarding a
8 report that was written by Major General Graham
9 about the May 21, 2021, visit.

10 (5) Since that meeting, no changes have oc-
11 curred in the Corps of Engineers' protocol for per-
12 sonnel when an algae bloom is present at Lake
13 Okeechobee structures, and no report has been pro-
14 vided as a result of the May 24th letter or June 1st
15 meeting.

16 (b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—The Engineer In-
17 spector General shall conduct an investigation into—

18 (1) whether a report was written by the Corps
19 of Engineers after the May 21, 2021, visit to the S-
20 380 structure at Lake Okeechobee, Florida; and

21 (2) whether there has been any negligence on
22 the part of the Corps of Engineers in protecting
23 Corps personnel from the effects of harmful algal
24 blooms at Lake Okeechobee.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Engineer Inspector General
3 shall submit to Congress—

4 (1) a report that includes the findings of the in-
5 vestigation conducted under subsection (b) and any
6 recommendations of the Engineer Inspector General
7 for legislative action; and

8 (2) any materials related to the May 21, 2021,
9 visit to the S-380 structure at Lake Okeechobee,
10 Florida.

