

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7575**  
**OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA**

At the end of title III, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN**  
2 **FLORIDA SYSTEM.**

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

4 (1) In May of 2019, the Environmental Protec-  
5 tion Agency recommended water concentrations, at  
6 or below which protects public health, for the  
7 cyanotoxins microcystins at 8 micrograms per liter  
8 (hereinafter referred to as the “EPA Standard”).

9 (2) On July 10th, 2019, in the Transportation  
10 and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on  
11 Water Resources and Environment Hearing titled  
12 “Water Resources and Development Acts: Status of  
13 Implementation and Future Needs”, The Army  
14 Corps of Engineers acknowledged that they have re-  
15 leased toxic water containing Cyanobacteria from  
16 lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River and Indian  
17 River Lagoon.

18 (b) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Assistant Secretary of the  
19 Army for Civil Works shall direct the Army Corps of Engi-  
20 neers to modify water infrastructure management in Cen-

1 tral and Southern Florida to ensure public health shall  
2 overlay all authorized project purposes. Such authorized  
3 project purposes shall include—

4 (1) flood control;

5 (2) navigation;

6 (3) water supply for agricultural irrigation, mu-  
7 nicipalities, industry, and Everglades National Park;

8 (4) regional groundwater control, and salinity  
9 control;

10 (5) enhancement of fish and wildlife; and

11 (6) recreation.

12 (c) PUBLIC HEALTH.—In this section, the term  
13 “public health” is defined as follows:

14 (1) Managing Lake Okeechobee and the Central  
15 and Southern Florida system—

16 (A) to minimize the potential of toxic  
17 cyanobacteria and other harmful algal blooms;  
18 and

19 (B) prevent discharges containing  
20 cyanobacteria or related toxins at the EPA  
21 Standard into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee  
22 watersheds, downstream users, and other areas  
23 where such cyanobacteria or related toxins will  
24 cause or exacerbate public health risks.

1           (2) Ensuring the integrity and stability of the  
2           Herbert Hoover Dike.

3           (3) Maintaining all provisions of applicable  
4           State, Federal, and Tribal water quality laws, poli-  
5           cies, and regulations.

6           (4) Ensuring necessary water volume and qual-  
7           ity reaches the greater Everglades, Tribal lands, Ev-  
8           erglades National Park, Florida Bay and  
9           Caloosahatchee Watershed to restore the natural  
10          habitat.

11          (d) MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS.—The Secretary  
12          of the Army shall modify operations of all current project  
13          elements to ensure that public health of all citizens, in-  
14          cluding downstream users, shall overlay the operating re-  
15          gimes of these various elements.

16          (e) MASTER OPERATIONAL MANUAL.—The Secretary  
17          of the Army shall update or develop a Master Operational  
18          Manual, in cooperation with the State of Florida, to en-  
19          sure that all of the various existing operational project ele-  
20          ments of the Central and Southern Florida project shall  
21          be managed as a system to protect public health and Ever-  
22          glades Restoration. As new elements are completed and  
23          added to the project, the Master Operational Manual shall  
24          be updated to include the new features.

1 (f) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Army, in conjunc-  
2 tion with the National Academies, shall undertake a study  
3 of the legacy of pollution and nutrient loading as well as  
4 the impacts of soil amendments from current and past  
5 operational regimes. The study shall include—

6 (1) the components of the nutrient load and soil  
7 amendments, and how this nutrient loading is and  
8 will continue to impact Everglades restoration ef-  
9 forts; and

10 (2) proposed solutions to ameliorate the impacts  
11 of this pollution to downstream watersheds.

12 (g) SCOPE.—Nothing in this section shall be con-  
13 strued to alter or amend—

14 (1) the Water Rights Compact between the  
15 State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

16 (2) the water quality standards of the  
17 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida;

18 (3) State water quality standards, applicable  
19 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
20 discharge permits, and Everglades Forever Act wa-  
21 tershed permits; or

22 (4) the schedule for completion of the Central  
23 Everglades Planning Project or Comprehensive Ev-  
24 erglades Restoration Plan projects authorized on or  
25 before enactment of this Act.

1           (h) PROHIBITION ON USE OF RESTORATION  
2 FUNDS.—No restoration funds shall be used by the Sec-  
3 retary to undertake Deep Well Injection (DWI) of flood  
4 or any other excess waters.

5           (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
6 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
7 essary to carry out the provisions of this section.

