



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0916**

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Andrew R. Wheeler  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Sarasota County Bee Ridge WIFIA Submission

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

I am writing in support of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) letter of interest submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners.

The Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility (BRWRF) located on 143 acres in my congressional district at 5550 Lorraine Road in Sarasota, Florida, was constructed in 1994 and is one of three regional treatment facilities owned and operated by Sarasota County. The county commission directed staff to update the treatment process at the BRWRF to Advanced Wastewater Treatment to reduce the nutrient loads in plant effluent. The expansion and conversion project includes the construction of new facilities, utilities, and on-site infrastructure, demolition of existing facilities, utilities, and on-site infrastructure including secondary clarifiers and deep bed filters.

The county believes this project will be an example of an innovative approach that successfully blends optimization and refurbishment of existing infrastructure with a state-of-the-art technology not previously developed at this scale in Florida.

Clean water and protecting our environment are critical to our quality of life in Southwest Florida. Please give favorable consideration to Sarasota County's request for WIFIA financing to improve water quality by updating the treatment process at the BRWRF.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please my district director, Sally Dionne at 941.951.6643.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress