



LATIN AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

April 5, 2018

To whom it may concern:

The Latin American Business Association (LABA) is an organization that unifies business owners in South Florida to advocate for the business community at the federal, state and local levels. We are your neighbors, our families are being raised here and we are proud to call Miami "home." What is important to Miami-Dade County is important to us, and nothing is more critical for future generations of Miamians than our water supply.

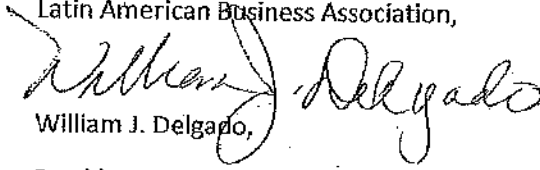
Every day, approximately 100 million gallons of wastewater are released into Biscayne Bay. However, by 2025, the State will require the Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department to recycle that wastewater rather than treat it and release it into our ocean. In order to meet this State mandate, Miami-Dade County will be required to build a state-of-the-art facility of which the construction alone could cost County water ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

That is why the LABA was encouraged to learn of the innovative approach being proposed by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Florida Power & Light. The plan will meet the ocean outfall mandate by 2025, and will help reduce salinity levels in the cooling canals at the Turkey Point nuclear power plant. A meeting to approve the agreement between the County and FPL is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10. If the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approves the agreement, the County and FPL will begin exploring the feasibility of constructing a facility that could recycle up to 60 million gallons of wastewater per day for use at Turkey Point's cooling canals. If the facility is built, we'll be more than halfway to meeting the outfall mandate, our residents will have cleaner water and FPL will be able to improve its cooling canal system. It is a win-win-win for Miami-Dade County government, FPL and most importantly, for the 2.7 million local residents and businesses.

The LABA would welcome the County Commission's approval so that the parties can begin the next phase of what could truly be a game-changing public-private partnership for our community. We support this agreement because it is the first step in what could help make Miami, our home, a stronger, more resilient community for all of us.

Sincerely,

Latin American Business Association,

  
William J. Delgado,

President