



June 14, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your service to the people of South Florida. This letter serves to respectfully request your assistance in extending the Department of Environmental Protection's "special condition" permit period to run continuously through October 31, 2019. The purpose of this request is to address the overabundance of seaweed being deposited on Miami-Dade County beaches. This "special condition" permit would give us the ability to maintain our current and approved practices for addressing the now-continuous seaweed issue without the necessity of re-applying for a permit every two weeks.

In Miami-Dade County, we continuously strive to restore, protect and maintain our community's natural environment, balancing the needs of our ecosystem with the need to preserve tourism, our county's number-one industry. Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department (PROS) is responsible for maintaining 17 miles of county beaches and works collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to follow all regulations and obtain required permits for mechanized beach cleaning. Having said that, and with the understanding that all required procedures associated with the requested permitting will be followed, we must balance the need to protect our shorelines' natural habitats with that of the \$26 billion-dollar annual tourism trade, with our beaches as the centerpiece of tourist attractions.

This special request for your assistance in securing the one-time "special condition" permit for continuous use of heavy equipment is made to address an extreme situation characterized by unprecedented levels of seaweed and the rising concern in our community of its potential effects on Miami-Dade County's tourism and beachfront property values. We appreciate your consideration of this important request to help maintain our treasured beaches.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor, Miami-Dade County

A blue ink signature of Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 5.

Eileen Higgins
Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 5

c: Secretary Noah Valenstein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Maria Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreations and Open Spaces Department