

## **Gov. Scott Asked by Conservationists to Veto SB 2142 Which Gives Legislature Power Over Water District Budgets**

Posted on May 19, 2011 by [Rosa Schechter](#)

[Kirk Fordham, Chief Executive Officer of the Everglades Foundation](#) has written a letter to Governor Rick Scott, asking Governor Scott to veto one of the gazillion new laws coming to him for approval from the Florida Legislature that are designed to help heal our economically-hurting state. There's also been a press conference.

[Specifically, the Everglades Foundation is asking Governor Scott to veto SB 2142.](#) You can download the letter and read the whole thing over at the [Miami Herald's Naked Politics blog](#).

The proposed law involves the state's water management rules and [you can read SB 2142 here](#). This is the text of what Governor Scott is being asked to sign - or veto.

### ***SB 2142 - Florida Water Management Policy Changes***

The new law will do several things. One key point: unlike some of the other laws going into effect these days, this law does not end or limit state regulatory powers.

SB 2142 will increase the power of state government to review and to nix the budgets of our water management districts by allowing the Florida Legislature as well as the governor the right to this level of oversight. It's true that the bill is curtailing some state-level regulatory authority, in a way: the governor's power over state water management is arguably being weakened.

### ***So, why is the Everglades Foundation upset that there's going to be Legislative oversight of Florida waterways?***

You'd think that this group would welcome the state legislature here, the idea being more regulation rather than less when natural resources are concerned, but no. [Seems their position is that SB 2142 is going to muddy things up money-wise, especially.](#)

Seems [SB 2142](#) will allow the Florida Legislature to limit the amount of money that the water management districts can collect in ad valorem taxes - and it gives the Legislative Budget Commission the power to line-item veto each district's budget. These are seen as [dangerous and wrong](#) by the conservationists here.

Bottom line, however, is this legislation along with many of the other laws that Governor Scott is being asked to sign into law deal with the economic crisis that our state is facing and money is the focus. Ad valorem tax money controls are what the legislators would focus upon, presumably, not tying the hands of the water districts.

Property taxes mean little without corresponding property values. The reality of the Florida Foreclosure mess and the decline in our state's fair market property values is one of the reasons our economy has suffered. Floridians have seen their property values plummet - and

they are clamoring for some relief, and for economic growth. In increasing the oversight over future property taxation, this bill is addressing an issue of key economic concern to our state.

We're in big trouble and [SB 2142](#) is one more brick in the wall designed to stop the economic downturn.

Governor Scott is going to sign this bill into law. Watch.