

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
400 South Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any state funding or policy support that would lead to the removal of the Kirkpatrick Dam and the draining of Rodman Reservoir (Lake Ocklawaha). As a concerned citizen who values Florida's water, environment, and economy, I urge you to protect this vital resource and preserve the reservoir for future generations.

Water quality impacts from dam removal would be severe and far-reaching. Scientific studies show that breaching the dam would increase nutrient loads into the St. Johns River, especially in the Welaka area, which already suffers from chronic algae blooms. These nutrient surges would worsen both the intensity and duration of these harmful blooms — a risk that will only grow with the projected addition of 3 million new residents in the St. Johns River Water Management District over the next 25 years.

All of Florida's water quality issues are man-made, and population growth will continue to amplify these problems. We are already seeing this in Silver Springs, where nitrogen levels have been 3.5 to 4 times the safe baseline for over a decade. The Silver River supplies up to 90% of the flow in the lower Ocklawaha River. Draining Rodman would send these excessive nutrient loads directly downstream, damaging not only Silver Springs but also the entire lower Ocklawaha and St. Johns River systems.

Lake Ocklawaha currently plays a valuable role in reducing pollution. As water flows through the reservoir, nutrient loads and turbidity decrease by an average of 35%, acting as a natural buffer that protects water quality downstream during rainy seasons. With upstream water bodies like the Harris Chain of Lakes already struggling, removing the reservoir would eliminate one of the few tools helping to control pollution naturally.

Finally, if true river restoration is the goal, attention should be focused on the 20+ miles of the Ocklawaha River that remain ditched and diked — not on removing a reservoir that provides environmental, recreational, and economic value.

Governor DeSantis, I respectfully urge you to protect the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir. The environmental science, economic impact, and practical conservation outcomes clearly favor keeping the dam and reservoir as it is currently. **Please stand with the communities who depend on this resource and reject any proposal to fund its removal. We request a VETO of any potential appropriations aimed at restoring the Ocklawaha River and, ultimately, removing the Rodman Dam.**

Sincerely,

[Your Name]