

[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 initiatives aimed at removing the Kirkpatrick Dam and draining the Rodman Reservoir. As a Floridian deeply concerned about the future of our environment and local communities, I urge you to stand with the thousands who support not removing the dam and keeping this vital resource.

For over 50 years, Rodman Reservoir has developed into a thriving aquatic and wildlife ecosystem. It now supports a diverse array of species—from native fish populations to migratory birds, manatees, and countless other forms of wildlife that have adapted and flourished in this environment. Draining the reservoir at this point would not “restore” a natural state—it would destroy decades of ecological balance, displacing wildlife, collapsing habitats, and eliminating wetlands that have migrated and evolved uphill since the area was flooded.

Seminole County legislators pretending they know what’s best for communities outside of their districts is comical. The irony is hard to ignore: while state and federal agencies are investing billions of taxpayer dollars in constructing artificial reservoirs to improve water quality, store freshwater, and manage nutrient pollution, Rodman Reservoir already accomplishes these goals naturally and effectively. It filters upstream water, reduces nutrient loads, and helps trap sediment before it can pollute the lower Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers. Draining it would eliminate one of Florida’s most efficient natural treatment systems, just when we need it most.

In an era where water quality, ecological health, and environmental stewardship are more important than ever, removing Rodman Reservoir would be a step backward—not forward. Its value goes beyond environmental significance; it also offers economic benefits through tourism, fishing, recreation, and provides accessible nature to residents in one of the state’s most underserved regions.

Governor DeSantis, I urge you to oppose any funding for the removal of the Kirkpatrick Dam and to instead support policies that recognize the long-term value of Rodman Reservoir. **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.**

Let’s protect what is already working—for the people, the wildlife, and the future of Florida.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]