



**THE FLORIDA
SENATE**

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR JEFF ATWATER
 25th District

July 10, 2008

Governor Charlie Crist
 The Capitol
 400 S. Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Deep Water Port/Calypso

Dear Governor Crist:

Please allow this letter to offer insight into the permitting process of a deepwater port project off the coast of Broward County. The project is known as Calypso and its purpose is to provide natural gas to Florida from off-shore sources.

We share a common interest to create alternative and clean energy sources to meet Florida's future energy needs. Accomplishing that goal must never put at risk our environment, our economic security and the safety of our fellow Floridians.

Unfortunately, from the information I have reviewed to date and my visit with the project applicants, I believe the risks associated with this project far outweigh the benefits. After the applicants did not receive permits from the Bahamian government to establish this port off the Bahamian coast, they decided to pursue permits to place their project directly off our shores along the heavily populated coast and nearby our fragile reef system. Most notably, at a recent public forum, the applicant was unable to alleviate the reasonable health and safety concerns of coastal residents that may arise from a catastrophic accident or terrorist attack.

The United States Coast Guard will soon issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement and start the clock running for a 45-day period of public input on the merits of the project. There will also be an additional comment period, at which time you will be able to offer your recommendation for the project. Based on the information I have on-hand today, I would encourage you to deny the application.

I appreciate the invitation you have extended to me to discuss the merits of this project if and when it makes its way to your desk. I shall look forward to the visit. If I may offer you any further insights at this time, I hope you will not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Jeff Atwater

cc: Secretary Michael Sole, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

REPLY TO:

- 824 U.S. Highway One, Suite 210, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408 (561) 626-6101
- Oakland Park City Hall, 3860 NE 12th Avenue, Oakland Park, Florida 33334 (954) 847-3518
- 406 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (905) 487-5100

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

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LISA CARLTON