

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Florida State and Local Official Opposition to the Use of Phosphogypsum in Roads

Dear Administrator Regan,

The undersigned local and state elected officials across Florida are united in their opposition to the use of phosphogypsum in road construction and urge you to deny the Mosaic application for a small-scale road pilot project on private land in Florida.

As you know, phosphogypsum poses serious environmental and public health risks. The severity of these risks is so great that the Environmental Protection Agency has prohibited it under the Clean Air Act's Hazardous Air Pollutant Program since 1992. If you approve the proposed application, our communities may be exposed to cancer-causing radon, carcinogens and heavy metals. Given our role as elected officials, we cannot support knowingly putting radioactive waste into roads that our constituents, including families and children, may utilize and ultimately whose health could be irrevocably compromised as a result.

As Floridians and the representatives for communities throughout the state, we have witnessed the failures and risks of the current gypstack system firsthand. Spills and sinkholes have impacted our communities and waterways, even triggering local states of emergency, most notably in 2021 at Piney Point when hundreds of millions of gallons of toxic wastewater were discharged into Tampa Bay. More than two years later, the estuary is still in recovery after the subsequent red tide that decimated bay health and killed 1,600 tons of marine life. To date, the state of Florida has spent more than \$85 million on clean-up efforts for this spill alone.

Florida's beaches and estuaries continue to grapple with harmful algal blooms, fish kills and seagrass die-offs, and allowing the use of a known radioactive pollutant in roads will only further diminish and destroy the state's most valuable resource: water. Permitting the use of phosphogypsum in road construction will inevitably lead to toxic runoff in local waterways endangering the public health of nearby communities,

environmental health of waterways and aquatic life, and economic health of local businesses and the tourism industry.

On behalf of the communities that will bear the brunt of phosphogypsum in roads we urge you to deny Mosaic's application for a small-scale road pilot project in Florida. We will not accept radioactive waste in roadbeds which places our constituents, schools, waterways and communities in harm's way.

Sincerely,

State Representative Lindsay Cross

District 60 - St. Petersburg

State Senator Geraldine Thompson

District 15 - Orlando

State Representative Anna Eskamani

District 42 - Orlando

Mayor Teresa Heitmann

City of Naples

State Representative Rita Harris

District 44 - Orlando

Mayor Teri Johnston

City of Key West

State Representative Yvonne Hinson

District 21 - Gainesville

Mayor Brent Latham

City of North Bay Village

State Representative Michele Rayner

District 62 - St. Petersburg

Mayor James Rostek

City of Madeira Beach

State Representative Felicia Robinson

District 104 - Miami Gardens

Mayor Joshua Rydell

City of Coconut Creek

State Representative Susan Valdés

District 64 - Tampa

Mayor Judy Titsworth

City of Holmes Beach

State Representative Katherine Waldron

District 93 - Wellington

Vice-Mayor Mark Grill

City of St. Pete Beach

State Senator Lori Berman

District 26 - Boynton Beach

Vice-Mayor Anna Hockhammer

Village of Pinecrest

Commissioner Christopher Collins
City of Stuart

Commissioner Adriane Elliott
City of Apalachicola

Commissioner Jeremy Katzman
City of Cooper City

Councilmember Kem Mason
Town of Lantana

Commissioner Idelma Quintana
City of Hollywood

Commissioner Jamie Robinson
City of Largo

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley
City of Key West

Councilman Kenny Matlock
City of Marathon

Councilmember Katie Abbott
Village of Pinecrest

Councilmember Denise Horland
City of Plantation

Council Member Gina Driscoll
City of St. Petersburg

Council Member Beth Petrunoff
City of Naples

Councilor April Thanos
City of Gulfport