



THE FLORIDA SENATE

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SENATOR MIKE FASANO

11th District

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Herschel T. Vineyard, Jr.
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Secretary Vineyard:

I have been contacted by many constituents who have expressed their concerns with the Department's plan to allow a private company to build and operate a high-impact campground on Honeymoon Island. I want to express my adamant opposition to this proposal.

Allowing a for-profit enterprise to run a high-impact campground on such a sensitive and important environmental treasure as Honeymoon Island is a major policy change that needs more review than it has been given. The Department's Acquisition and Restoration Council's split vote is hardly the authority needed to implement such a change both locally and statewide. Has the Florida Legislature weighed in on this plan? Has the Florida Cabinet given its okay to allowing Honeymoon Island and other state treasures to be turned into for-profit ventures run by for-profit companies?

Privatization may work in some areas, but it does not necessarily work in others. Public employees who work in forestry and conservation do so because of a personal love and dedication to their work. Employees of private companies may not necessarily share that same commitment, especially if their prime goal is to make money running a campground that caters primarily to high-impact camping.

I respectfully request that all plans for Honeymoon Island be put on hold until the Florida Legislature has the opportunity to review this proposal. It is important that

REPLY TO:

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Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
President of the Senate

MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT
President Pro Tempore

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the Legislature be given the opportunity to review whatever data exists to support the concept that opening up a limited-use area to around-the-clock camping is good for the environment and for the vast majority of the daytime users who don't camp. I believe these and many other questions need to be asked and answered before the state moves forward.

Honeymoon Island in particular is an example of natural Florida at its best. It is vital that any plans that may change this treasure be fully vetted and approved by all entities that have a say in its operation (i.e. the Florida Legislature, the Florida Cabinet and most importantly the people of Florida).

Given that a public hearing is scheduled for July 5th I look forward to your thoughts as soon as may be possible.

Yours truly,



Mike Fasano

State Senator, District 11

MF/gg