Failure of SB 274

April 29, 2009

[Springs, Everglades measures fail as amendments](#)

Sen. Lee Constantine's effort to get his springs bill attached to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection bill (SB 2104) failed today by a 19-13 vote. SB 274 by Constantine, R-Altamonte Springs, would regulate nitrogen releases to groundwater from farms, sewage treatment plants and septic tanks. Scientists say increasing nitrogen in groundwater fuels the growth of weeds and algae in springs across the state. Developers and home-builders have challenged the cost to septic tank owners, though Constantine said septic tanks can be upgraded for less than has been estimated. "You have a DEP package here that has a lot of good stuff in it," Sen. Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said in speaking against the amendment. "This bill or this amendment really should stand on its own two feet because there is a significant amount of policy change in this amendment."
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Environmental News from Florida's capital by Bruce Ritchie

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Administration's attention and efforts to move Everglades Restoration forward with this critical funding."
The blogger
Bruce Ritchie

Bruce Ritchie has covered Florida growth and environmental issues since 1993. He previously was a reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat, the Gainesville Sun and the Florida Times-Union. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists. Contact him at brucebritchie@gmail.com or (850) 385-1774.