

One inland area which we are now mining contains reserves to last about 80 years at our present mining rate. To post a performance bond for its proper reclamation, it seems to us, is an undue hardship. It's ultimate and final manner of development is unknown at this time.

We certainly believe in conservation and the theory behind the bill, and the esthetic manner in which we have developed our lands over the years bears this out.

We do feel, however, that when companies, by past performances, have shown good records of land reclamation and subsequent development, or when, by the very nature and future value of the depleted areas which would force reclamation and development, such companies should be exempted from the posting of performance bonds.

Your consideration to the points brought out in this letter will certainly be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

HUGH H. BEIN.

GLENDIVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Glendive, Mont., May 14, 1968.

Senator LEE METCALF,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR METCALF: The Legislative Committee of the Glendive Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges you to support S. B. 3132 since strip mining will become increasingly important in our area.

Sincerely,

ROGER SMITH,
Vice Chairman, Legislative Committee.

LAKELAND LEDGER,
Lakeland, Fla., May 2, 1968.

Senator LEE METCALF,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: Stewart French, Chief Counsel, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, asked me to send you the in-depth study The Ledger did based on a report by one of Florida's foremost water authorities. Lamar Johnson, an engineer who specializes in water use, reports that the 200 million gallons of water a day pumped by the phosphate industries from the aquifer are draining the lakes of Polk County. Three lakes in Lakeland are now barren.

While I can thoroughly appreciate the enormous contribution of the phosphate industry to Polk County, I feel they must still at the same time maintain themselves as responsible corporate and community citizens.

The story speaks for itself. We'll be glad to further research any facts which you wish.

I am sincerely,

JOHN R. HARRISON, President.

[From the Ledger, Lakeland, Fla., Apr. 28, 1968]

POLK LAKES ARE "DOOMED"—PHOSPHATE SAID PRIMARY CAUSE

(By W. D. Shilling, Ledger staff writer)

The lakes of Lakeland are dying slowly.

So, too, are the lakes of Auburndale, Winter Haven, Haines City, Lake Wales—all of Imperial Polk County.

Rainfall, normal or even above normal, will not save the lakes.

The big villain in the story of doom is the phosphate industry.

Secondary villains are the citrus industry and electric power plants, such as the City of Lakeland's generating facility on Lake Parker.

Only drastic action in water conservation will save the lakes.

These are the considered views of Lamar Johnson, of Lakes Wales, consulting engineer and one of Florida's foremost authorities on water.

"We have got to do something quickly," Johnson said. "If we lose our lakes, a lot of people will be hurt. The people know that something is wrong, but they don't know what it's all about."