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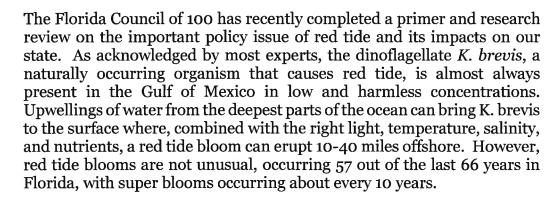
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February 28, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor State of Florida PL 05 The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: Red tide

**Dear Governor DeSantis:** 



The toxins from red tide blooms can kill fish, birds, and marine mammals, as well as harming humans' eyes and respiratory systems as far inland as 1-2 miles. Red tide blooms can also hurt commercial fisheries and wash dead, decaying sea life on to beaches, driving away recreation and tourism activity. Unfortunately, no research over the past 8 decades has found an effective way to eliminate red tide blooms that can stretch for 10,000 square miles.

The Florida Council of 100 strongly commends you for assuming the leadership role in efforts to protect Florida's environment, including issuing the executive order, Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment, which calls for the reconstitution of the Red Tide Task Force to address the causes and effects of red tide on the state. Moreover, we sincerely hope that your continued recommendations to fund initiatives to study and combat Florida's red tide blooms will bear fruit.

We also recognize your actions to mitigate the effects of blue-green algae in the state. This is another pressing environmental problem that affects both the health and livelihoods of all Floridians. That said, even though both blue-green algae and red tide can be exacerbated by human-contributed nutrients, it will be increasingly important to educate the



Ronald D. DeSantis Governor

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populace on the differences between the two types of algae in order to develop optimal solutions for addressing both scourges.

Although the problem of red tide has currently subsided, it will inevitably return to Florida's shores. The Florida Council of 100 will continue to track legislation and recommendations as they move forward and stands ready to support your efforts to address the red tide issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Corr Chair. Florida Council of 100

Chief Executive Officer
Radiant Places & Properties

Bob Ward President & CEO Florida Council of 100

cc. Shane Strum Diane Moulton Chris Spencer