



Board of County Commissioners

State of Florida

Sept. 21, 2010

Mr. Chris Holley
Executive Director
Florida Association of Counties
P.O. Box 549
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Dear Mr. Holley:

The Okaloosa Board of Commissioners recently became aware of the provision of SB 550 which requires homeowners to have their onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks) be inspected at least once every five years. This Senate bill was signed into law by Gov. Charlie Crist following the 2010 Legislative session.

The Board is adamantly opposed to the provision of SB 550 which requires this inspection, because we believe it is not only unfair to our citizens, but also poses a threat to the ability of our Board to regulate our community as we see fit. Okaloosa County currently has regulations in place for onsite septic tank systems. Those regulations have been sufficient to control environmental impacts of these systems.

Parts of Okaloosa County are very rural with the majority of single family homes and small businesses depending on septic systems. Inspections, penalties for non-compliance and tank pump-out costs will place an undue hardship on our citizens in difficult economic times.

Because SB 550 poses these threats to Okaloosa County, we strongly urge the Florida Association of Counties to present our concerns and lobby to see that the necessary legislative action is taken to rescind the septic tank provision of SB 550.

Sincerely,



Wayne Harris
Chairman

CC: Sen. Don Gaetz, Sen. Durell Peaden
Rep. Marti Coley, Rep. Brad Drake, Rep. Greg Evers, Rep. Matt Gaetz