



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Rick Scott
Governor

Jennifer Carroll
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.
Secretary

September 30, 2011

NOAA Restoration Center (F/HC3)
Community-based Restoration Program
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Highway, Rm. 14727
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Re: Support of Miami River Commission NOAA Application to 2012 Community
Based Marine Debris Prevention & Removal Project Grant**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in strong support of the Miami River Fund, Inc.'s (MRFI) application to NOAA's 2012 Community-Based Marine Debris Prevention & Removal Project. As outlined in the grant application, the MRFI is seeking funding to:

- 1) Remove derelict vessels from the Miami River and its tributaries, which negatively impact the natural environment, marine life, and navigation
- 2) Carry out Scavenger Decontamination Vessel services, including removal and disposal of marine debris, water decontamination and oxygenation
- 3) Coordinate Volunteer Miami River clean-up events to pick up and dispose of marine debris
- 4) Provide free environmental educational boat tours to students and environmental organizations, regarding pollution prevention and waste reduction, the protection of marine life and endangered fauna and flora.

FDEP has been a participant with the Miami River Commission through its Stormwater Subcommittee and supports the Commission's mission to improve the river. Additional grant funding would increase the Miami River Fund resources for working on the numerous difficult environmental issues which affect the River.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Abendroth".

John Abendroth
Environmental Administrator
Watershed Planning and Coordination Section