



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Agriculture, *Chair*  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12  
Education  
Banking and Insurance  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities  
Criminal Justice

**SELECT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

**SENATOR DENISE GRIMSLEY**

26th District

January 11, 2018

Mr. William Schifino, Jr.  
Chairman  
Judicial Committee  
Constitutional Revision Commission

Dear Chairman Schifino:

First, let me thank you and your fellow Constitutional Revision Commission members for the time and effort that you have committed to this undertaking.

Tomorrow, you and the Committee are scheduled to consider Proposal 23. Proposal 23 strikes at the heart of Florida farming and ranching communities specifically, and at progress generally. However noble its intent, we know that words carry meaning and, in this case, immense authority if ensconced in our state's constitution.

Proposal 23 would unleash a no-holds-barred wave of interventionism and frivolous lawsuits that I know my own farming operation would be unable to fend off. It stands to undermine environmental gains and rolls out a red carpet to the court system for anyone with an ax to grind, regardless of legal standing or science. Imagine the unintended consequences of freezing permitting processes and clogging the courts with challenges that could paralyze the ability of farms - and all small businesses for that matter - from operating with any shred of predictability.

As you know, the Bert Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act and the Right to Farm Act are two longstanding guideposts for both agriculture and private property rights in Florida. I find it inconceivable that both laws could be rendered useless, if not unconstitutional, if Proposal 23 meets with success.

Florida is an undeniably verdant state with ecological diversity that we all cherish. Florida's farmers and ranchers count themselves among the most ardent stewards you will find. I urge you and your fellow committee members to oppose Proposal 23 and support the hard work of those who raise the crops, feed our families and manage the resource with integrity.

**REPLY TO:**

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- 212 East Stuart Avenue, Lake Wales, Florida 33853 (863) 679-4847
- 410 Taylor Street, Suite 106, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 (941) 575-5717
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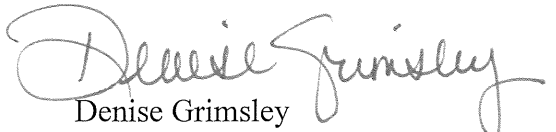
Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**JOE NEGRON**  
President of the Senate

**ANITERE FLORES**  
President Pro Tempore

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Sincerely,

  
Denise Grimsley  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture

cc: CRC Judicial Committee Members