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**Total Clips: 2**

Headline	Date	Outlet	Reporter
<a href="#">Short-Sighted Tea Partiers to Protest Everglades Deal</a>	07/08/2010	Stuart News	Samples, Eve
 <a href="#">Blog: Tea Parties to Protest U.S. Sugar 'Bailout' at South Florida Water District</a>	07/06/2010	Sunshine State News	Kenric Ward

### Short-Sighted Tea Partiers to Protest Everglades Deal

07/08/2010

Stuart News

Samples, Eve

I have long suspected many Tea Party activists were short-sighted. Now I know they are.

Proof:

The South Florida Tea Party is urging its followers to protest the state's proposed purchase of 73,000 acres of U.S. Sugar's land for Everglades Restoration. The group calls the purchase "a bailout of U.S. Sugar" and is urging equally outraged folks to show up at noon July 14 at the South Florida Water Management District's meeting in West Palm Beach.

The Tea Party group cites the New York Times when it says the deal is overpriced and will only benefit top U.S. Sugar executives. Yet it fails to mention that the New York Times editorial board actually endorsed the purchase as "A Good Deal for the Everglades."

The Tea Party sees the U.S. Sugar deal as a potential tax hike in the 16 counties under the South Florida Water Management District's jurisdiction. Check out the sensational video:

But what about the longer-term effects? Without a large swath of land south of Lake Okeechobee, there's little hope for relief from the heavy discharges of freshwater into the St. Lucie River.

What about the economic impact of the Lake O discharges on marine businesses in Martin County? If the river continues to suffer and businesses depart, there's certain to be a tax burden associated with that.

But I guess the Tea Party isn't concerning itself with that longer-range view.

[Return to Top](#)

### Blog: Tea Parties to Protest U.S. Sugar 'Bailout' at South Florida Water District

07/06/2010

Sunshine State News

Kenric Ward

[Return to Top](#)

The South Florida Tea Party and more than a dozen other Tea groups are calling on the South Florida Water Management District to reject the Everglades-U.S. Sugar "bailout."

"The deal leaves a bad taste in the mouth of taxpayers and environmentalists," said Everett Wilkinson, the Palm Beach Gardens-based chairman of the South Florida Tea Party.

The Tea groups say they will protest the billion-dollar land deal brokered by Gov. Charlie Crist when the SFWMD board meets July 14. Wilkinson is calling on like-minded opponents to join in at noon at the SFWMD headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.

