

Florida Crystals can help restore Everglades

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In a recent letter to the editor, Gaston Cantens of Florida Crystals Corp. touts the sugar industry's interest in pollution reduction, suggesting this is a long-standing objective of that business.

Cantens fails to note that the principal reason there is less pollution today from sugar-cane farming in the Everglades is that the federal government is now requiring a stricter standard than in the past. While the sugar companies have spent money on cleaning up some of the ugliness they have created over many years, it should be vigorously pointed out that the taxpayers have spent hundreds of millions more.

In fact, every taxpayer in South Florida chips in to treat the water flowing from Cantens' employer's fields before it can enter the Everglades.

I do agree with the Everglades Agricultural Area farmers that too much pollution is getting into [Lake Okeechobee](#) and that pollution is complicating efforts to clean up the Everglades.

Why not clean up both?

We can use the land to be purchased from U.S. Sugar to treat and store water, and we can work with the landowners north of Lake Okeechobee to reduce their use of chemicals.

We also suggest that Florida Crystals Corp. join those truly interested in Everglades restoration by providing land (at a fair profit) and refraining from filing lawsuits at every juncture to slow or impede the cleansing of America's treasure.

Thom Rumberger Chairman,

Everglades Trust