

Letter: Commissioners ignored residents' wishes on boat-ramp vote

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I was born and raised in Indian River County and now I am raising my sons here. I have taught them to value our natural resources. They love fishing and boating in the lagoon. They also love science and understand its significance to our quality of life and how we value our resources.

I have also taught my sons about politics and the role our elected officials play in protecting our lagoon. I often take them to county commission meetings. In fact, I took them to part of the administrative hearing last year and to rallies and commission meetings regarding the Oslo boat ramp expansion project. My children felt they had helped save the Indian River Lagoon when the commissioners voted 3-to-2 to table the project for three to five years. We were led to believe we had won — that the lagoon won.

I also took them to the commission meeting on March 10 and imagine our shock to hear that the project had been continued behind the public's back. Imagine my children's disappointment when a perfectly good clarifying motion was put to vote by Commissioner Tim Zorc that would cease all activities related to the project actually failed to pass. Now I have to explain to them that politicians are often corrupt. The commissioners tried to rationalize that they would save \$5,000 which seems ridiculous after wasting half-a-million dollars on this harmful project already.

We do not even know who wants this project besides Commissioners Peter O'Bryan, Wesley Davis and Bob Solari.

I will tell my boys what we do know is that three of our elected commissioners ignored our well-respected local scientists, hundreds of concerned citizens and my children and moved forward in the shadows to pursue a permit for a project that will hurt our lagoon.

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