

Letter: Commission reversal on boat ramp expansion completely disregards voice of people

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Like many of my family members, friends and associates, I am dismayed almost daily by the unscrupulous antics of our state and federal politicians. With few exceptions, they play lip service to their constituents and disregard the welfare of our state and nation, while surreptitiously serving the self-centered financial benefits and influence of those who put their special interests above all others.

Until a recent meeting, I excluded Indian River County government officials from my assessment of politicians. I have always held our county commissioners in high regard. This is not to say that I have always agreed with them, but overall I have found them to be aboveboard and to take their responsibilities seriously, looking out for the best interests of the county and its residents. However, that has changed.

By a 3-2 vote the commissioners completely disregarded the wishes of their constituents — expressed via months of rallies and testimony by hundreds of concerned citizens and organizations — opposing "improvements" to the Oslo Boat Ramp. And, the board disregarded its own vote last October to table the project for three to five years by acquiescing to unapproved action by county staff and a single boat company supporter.

Opponents of the proposed boat ramp project run the gamut of political leanings and include environmental scientists, sportsmen, and young and old alike. They have the common belief that our lagoon is the basis of our low taxes and economy, that it provides thousands of jobs and unparalleled recreational opportunities. They know that without continuing vigilance to mitigate further destruction, our home and property values cannot be sustained.

We must hold our County Commission accountable for any actions that in any way might jeopardize the health of our lagoon.

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