



Florida Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association

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THE IMPORTANCE OF FULLY FUNDING PETROLEUM CLEAN-UPS

The Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) was created so that Florida could protect drinking water supplies. Over 90% of our drinking water comes from underground sources and it is absolutely imperative that we address existing contamination.

At the inception of the clean-up program the state entered into an agreement with owners of contaminated property that their sites would be cleaned up. The constant irregularity in the funding of the program has produced unintended consequences.

First we have extended the program end date by decades. Secondly we have harmed small business owners who either want to sell their property or borrow money against it for capital improvements. Uneven funding makes either one almost impossible to achieve.

Third was the creation of an industry whose job it is to clean-up contaminated sites. They are comprised primarily of professionals in the fields of engineering and geology. For the most part they are small business entrepreneurs who have taken their education and expertise and applied it to a need. Improper funding levels are causing some of these businesses to close or move from Florida. The state would be better served by having thriving businesses paying taxes and employing Floridians.

Many complain that the program is too ineffective and inefficient. While we believe there is certainly room for improvement we acknowledge that the program will never be efficient or effective if we continue to under fund it.

While we fully understand the current economic situation we face in Florida we can't exacerbate our problems with the potential for contaminating our most precious resource, drinking water.

The clean-up program must be properly funded with revenues generated by the IPTF, if not the issue of those unintended consequences will only get worse. We need a minimum of \$150 million dollars to meet the clean up challenge.