



**COASTAL & HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP**

1050 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980-1836

941/833-6580, [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org)

February 7, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for the reintroduction of *The Myakka Wild & Scenic River Act of 2024* to federally designate the Myakka River as a Partnership Wild & Scenic River

Dear Congressman W. Gregory Steube,

The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the reintroduction of *The Myakka Wild & Scenic River Act of 2024* to federally designate the Myakka River as a Partnership Wild & Scenic River.

The CHNEP is part of the US EPA National Estuary Program and was created by Section 320 of the Clean Water Act to protect and preserve the estuaries and their watersheds from Lemon Bay to Estero Bay in Southwest Florida – recognized as “estuaries of national significance” by Congress. The Myakka River is within the CHNEP area. Long-term management, preservation and restoration activities of the CHNEP area are guided by our [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP), collectively developed and implemented by all of the local, state, and federal entities in the Partnership.

The CHNEP’s governing body, the [Policy Committee](#), is comprised of elected leaders from all 10-counties (Polk, Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Lee) as well as many of the cities therein, in addition to state and federal officials from various natural resource management agencies. After a presentation on this topic and careful deliberation at its recent January 23, 2025 meeting, the Policy Committee unanimously voted to support the reintroduction of [The Myakka Wild & Scenic River Act of 2024](#) to designate 34 miles of the Myakka River in Sarasota County as part of the Partnership National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. This action would be consistent with furthering multiple CHNEP CCMP water quality improvement, hydrological restoration, and fish, wildlife and habitat protection actions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our input and please contact me at [jhecker@chnep.org](mailto:jhecker@chnep.org) if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hecker  
Executive Director