

Sanibel Continues to Monitor Preemption

The Sanibel Council continues to encourage residents, businesses and other groups in the State to contact Florida legislators and vocalize opposition to preemptive language regarding Statewide fertilizer regulations.

A State Fertilizer Task Force, formed to set guidelines for fertilizer use in Florida, has come up with a guide document. However, at the Task Force's last meeting, State Rep. Bryan Nelson announced he intended to pursue preemptive legislation on fertilizer.

This legislation would mean that Statewide rules would apply and individual cities and counties would not be able to adopt their own stricter regulations. With the use of fertilizer on the increase, preemption could mean severe consequences for Sanibel and Lee County.

State Sen. Burt Saunders has indicated he would not support preemption. Mayor Mick Denham said he had spoken with the area Board of Realtors and that group has taken preemption concerns to the State board. Council members continued to emphasize the point that water quality is not just an environmental concern; it's an economic concern as well.