



FLORIDA STATE SENATOR

ALEXIS CALATAYUD

DISTRICT 38



Protecting Our Water, Protecting Our Future



Hold The Line of The Urban Development Boundary

One of the most important responsibilities I have as your State Senator is protecting the long-term future of our community. That includes standing firm in defense of Miami-Dade's Urban Development Boundary (UDB).

The UDB exists for a reason. It protects our drinking water, preserves agricultural land, reduces costly infrastructure expansion, and prevents unchecked sprawl that strains taxpayers and threatens our environment. Expanding the UDB would put increased

pressure on our aquifer, worsen flooding risks, and shift infrastructure costs onto residents. All while weakening the safeguards that make our region resilient.

Throughout this legislative session, I have been vocal about the need to protect the UDB and ensure state policy does not undermine local protections that safeguard our environment and quality of life.

On the final day of session, that advocacy turned into action. I successfully sponsored and secured passage of an amendment to **CS/CS/CS/HB 399: Land Use and Development Regulations** that removed language which could have opened the door to moving the Urban Development Boundary. By striking that language from the bill, we protected the integrity of the UDB and prevented a precedent that could have weakened local land-use protections.

This is an important step forward in ensuring that decisions about our most environmentally sensitive lands are made responsibly and with the long-term interests of our community in mind.

I also recently co-authored an op-ed in the **Miami Herald** with **Rachel Silverstein**, Executive Director and Waterkeeper of **Miami Waterkeeper**. Dr. Silverstein is a marine scientist with a Ph.D. from the **University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science** who has dedicated her career to protecting South Florida's waterways and holding polluters accountable. Her scientific expertise reinforces what many of us already know: responsible land-use planning is essential to protecting our water supply and quality of life.

In our op-ed, we highlight why expanding development beyond the UDB would threaten:

- The **Everglades** and **Biscayne Bay**
- Our drinking water wells
- Flood protection and stormwater management systems

- Taxpayers who would bear the cost of new roads, sewer lines, and emergency services

Growth must be smart, sustainable, and fiscally responsible. We have room to build and revitalize within our existing urban core. Pushing outward into environmentally sensitive areas is not the solution.

I will continue fighting to:

- Preserve the integrity of the Urban Development Boundary
- Protect our aquifer and natural resources
- Support smart growth policies that strengthen, not weaken our community
- Protecting the UDB is about more than land. It's about safeguarding our water, our economy, and the future of Miami-Dade County.

I encourage you to read the full op-ed here:

<https://amp.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article314911153.html>

Thank you for staying engaged and standing with me in defense of responsible growth.

Best,



-Your State Senator Alexis Calatayud