



## This Week in the Office of Senator Marco Rubio

On Monday, I spoke to *News4JAX* to discuss my legislation on student loans and “red flag” laws. Watch the full interview [here](#).



On Thursday, I met with Kinon, a South Florida manufacturer of artisan surface designs, to discuss the issues their company faces with counterfeit products and theft of intellectual property. Read more [here](#).



On Tuesday, I presented the Senate Small Business of the Week Congressional Record to Haynes Security Services. Read more [here](#).



On Thursday, I sent a letter to the Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Eric Sutton, advising the agency to ensure that Key deer populations, and their indigenous habitat, remain protected irrespective of federal funding. Read more [here](#).

MARCO RUBIO  
FLORIDA

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

August 21, 2019

Mr. Eric Sutton  
Executive Director  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Dear Executive Director Sutton:

As you are aware, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) national workplan for downlisting and delisting actions, first posted in June 2019, has outlined that the Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*) may be proposed for delisting. I am concerned about the possible impact of a final delisting decision by USFWS on the species' survival, and will await the release of the Species Status Assessment to verify that it is grounded in the best available science and that it complies with federal law. However, regardless of the species' future federal status under the ESA, I request that your agency exercise its authority under Article IV, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution to ensure the longterm conservation and protection of Key deer populations.

Given the importance that the species holds to the identity of many residents in the Lower Keys, and the species' value to the region's tourism-driven and environmentally-conscious economy, the Key deer deserves special recognition and attention from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). There is widespread public interest and affection for this unique mammal that is found nowhere else in the world. Should the USFWS conclude, through a thorough science-based and objective review, that the recovery criteria for the Key deer have been met and a delisting (or downlisting) decision is warranted, it would greatly benefit the public's confidence to know that the FWC was prepared to proactively seek appropriate state protections for these animals and their habitat throughout its historical range in cooperation with USFWS. Adoption of the Key deer into the State's current Imperiled Species Management Plan is one such action your agency should explore in that scenario.

While federal protections under the ESA have proven essential to the recovery of iconic species in Florida, such as the American alligator and Bald eagle, and have staved off the extinction of many others, including the Florida manatee, Florida panther, and American crocodile, the State of Florida has a significant responsibility and moral imperative to ensure that our endemic flora and fauna are conserved for future generations. We must not rely solely on federal protections when direct state-level action can secure state and local conservation goals. Once again, I request that your agency promptly and proactively exercise its constitutional authority to ensure that Key deer populations and their critical habitat remain protected from current and future threats to the species' survival.

On Monday, I wrote an op-ed featured in *USA Today* discussing realistic solutions for Floridians that can mitigate the impacts of the changing climate. Read more [here](#).

OPINION

## Rubio on climate change: 'We should choose adaptive solutions'

*Many proposed 'fixes' for climate change have been unrealistic and dangerous. Climate change is a real problem. Real problems deserve real solutions.*

MARCO RUBIO | OPINION CONTRIBUTOR | 6:00 am EDT August 19, 2019



The world is not going to end in 12 years as some [climate alarmists claim](#), but I can tell you Florida will be forced to continue making adjustments in the coming decades because of the [changing climate](#). Trend lines suggest

On Wednesday, I issued a statement after the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) announced financial pressures against Chinese kingpins who manufacture, sell, or distribute synthetic opioids or their precursor chemicals. Read more [here](#).

"Today's action by the Administration is long overdue as it targets Chinese kingpins responsible for the nefarious international drug trafficking operation contributing to our nation's opioid crisis," **Rubio said**. "As a co-sponsor of the NDAA's anti-opioid measure, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and President Trump to get the bipartisan *Fentanyl Sanctions Act* signed into law and hold accountable China and other countries who are trafficking deadly synthetic opioids into our communities."

### In Case You Missed It...

**“Rubio on climate change: ‘We should choose adaptive solutions’”** ([USA Today](#), 8/19/2019)

**“US Senator Marco Rubio Urges Conservation Officials To Ensure Key Deer Populations Remain Protected”** ([CBS 4](#), 8/23/2019)

**“Marco Rubio: My “red flag” bill “may” help prevent mass shootings”** ([The Floridian](#), 8/21/2019)

**“Rubio calls for compromise, bipartisanship in politics”** ([Miami Herald](#), 8/22/2019)

**“Marco Rubio: Red flag, eagle eye gun laws have consensus in Congress”** ([Palm Beach Post](#), 8/22/2019)

**“Following state passage of the bill, called the Sunshine Protection Act, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., took the fight for year-round daylight saving time to the federal level, along with Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla. Rubio first proposed it last year, but it stalled in Congress. Rubio and Buchanan reintroduced it in March, arguing it would decrease rates of childhood obesity and improve the economy, among other benefits.”** (Ditch the switch? Call to go on permanent daylight saving time grows, [NBC](#), 8/17/2019)

**“Marco Rubio Showcases Small Business, UNF in Jacksonville”** ([Florida Daily](#), 8/19,2019)

**“Marco Rubio Calls for ‘Swift and Severe Consequences’ for China if it Punishes Hong Kong Protesters** ([Florida Daily](#), 8/19/2019)

**“‘I commend the administration for moving forward with the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan,’ said Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) ‘As the Chinese government and Communist Party seeks to extend its authoritarian reach in the region, it is critical that the United States continue to enhance our strategic relationship with our democratic partner Taiwan through regular and consistent support,’ he said.”** (U.S. Clears Sale of F-16 Jets to Taiwan, [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 8/22/2019)

## **Coming up...**

- My staff will host Mobile Office Hours next week to assist constituents with federal casework issues in their communities. More information and locations near you [here](#).

**Keep up with me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)**

