

*1000 Friends of Florida \* Audubon of Florida \* Defenders of Wildlife  
Everglades Foundation \* Everglades Law Center \* Everglades Trust  
Florida Wildlife Federation \* National Parks Conservation Association  
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Association \* Sierra Club  
The Trust for Public Land \* Tropical Audubon*

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Larry Cretul  
Speaker of the House  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Cretul:

I am writing on behalf of the organizations listed above to express our collective strong support for the reauthorization this session of the Florida Department of Community Affairs. We are concerned that if DCA is not reauthorized this session, it will be especially vulnerable to elimination, dismantlement, funding cutbacks and/or excessive political pressure over the coming year.

With passage of SB 282 reauthorizing DCA, the Senate has shown its commitment to growth management in Florida. We ask House leadership to please show the same commitment and pass comparable "clean" legislation so that DCA can be authorized this session.

DCA and Florida's growth management process provide important tools to protect Florida's environmental lands and wildlife habitats from inappropriate development. While land acquisition is important to protect sensitive natural areas, it is also important to ensure that growth and development are directed to appropriate locations. DCA provides a vital check and balance in Florida's process.

Appropriate growth management with oversight by DCA is crucial if we are to protect and restore the Everglades and other fragile lands in this state. To restore health to the Everglades ecosystem, we also must pay attention to what is happening on adjacent lands. DCA helps provide this broader oversight.

Smart planning equals smart growth. DCA is the catalyst that helps create the sustainable communities which drive our economy and ensure healthy living for all Floridians.

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Please send a clear message that growth management is important for all Floridians. Reauthorize DCA as a stand alone executive agency that maintains its full authority to reject comprehensive plan amendments that are not in compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Please "Re-enact Intact" the Florida Department of Community Affairs during the 2010 legislative session. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Pattison, FAICP  
President