



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon Society of Southwest Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Network
Collier County Audubon Society
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Ding Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
The Environmental Coalition
Everglades Coordinating Council
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
The Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Sierra Club
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry Glades Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Florida Division
Izaak Walton League of America Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Ocean Conservancy
The Pegasus Foundation
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

Resolution Supporting a Strong and Cohesive System of Growth Management in the State of Florida

WHEREAS growth management has played a significant role in protection of the Everglades ecosystem since adoption of the Growth Management Act by the Florida Legislature in 1985; and

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has played a significant role in implementing the Growth Management Act, promotes a holistic and consistent statewide vision, and assures that development serves to protect the environment without negatively impacting local economies; and

WHEREAS effective local, regional and state comprehensive planning helps maintain and perpetuate important ecosystem services and promotes economic growth and job creation in ecotourism that supports hiking, fishing, bird watching, tourism, diving, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities and enjoyment of Florida's natural environment; and

WHEREAS property values and revenues for local governments fare better under controlled growth versus uncontrolled growth and sprawl; and

WHEREAS the protection of wild and scenic areas provides for an enhanced quality of life, preservation of threatened and endangered wildlife, recharge of important groundwater resources, and maintenance of water quality in our rivers, lakes and estuaries; and

WHEREAS Florida's ability to attract jobs and industry, particularly in high paying and sustainable high tech industries, is inextricably linked with maintaining the quality of life benefits that accrue from protecting the environment and creating well-planned communities and timely construction of such necessary infrastructure as schools and roads; and

WHEREAS large-scale developments that will produce regional-scale impacts to infrastructure and affect multiple local jurisdictions requires state-level oversight to ensure a holistic, coherent and coordinated review and approval process can be implemented effectively; and

WHEREAS each piece of the Everglades that has been lost has occurred within a local government's jurisdiction, and each decision to further degrade or to restore will require an action by the local government of jurisdiction, and Florida's growth management program is needed to coordinate recovery; and

WHEREAS the state's comprehensive planning role should evolve while maintaining the fundamental concepts of the 1985 Growth Management Act and subsequent amendments.

Now therefore be it resolved,

The Everglades Coalition, with 53 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring the Everglades ecosystem, hereby supports a strong and cohesive system of growth management in the State of Florida, including appropriate funding and authority for an independent state land planning agency charged with overseeing growth management with an increased emphasis on protecting major state interests such as the Everglades, the Florida Keys and other significant natural areas as well as significant infrastructure investments.

The Everglades Coalition recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach cannot provide for economic development and a coveted quality of life without protecting natural areas for the benefit of all citizens, and recommends a stakeholder based consensus effort to tailor programs individually to defined geographic areas of special interest.

Further, the Everglades Coalition opposes any action which would result in the weakening or elimination of the agency tasked with enforcing appropriate growth management policies except in such appropriately designated developed areas where concurrency requirements are unnecessary or have been met.

While it is understood that refining the state planning process is a priority, the Everglades Coalition also supports the statutes and administrative codes which provide the legal framework for growth and development within the State of Florida that promotes compact, infill development within existing developed areas that is cost-efficient with multiple housing choices, jobs and transportation options in appropriate locations, including:

The Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act, Florida's Growth Management Act – Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes. (This act requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 410 municipalities to adopt Local Government Comprehensive Plans that guide future growth and development).

The Environmental Land and Water Management Act, Chapter 380, Florida Statutes. (This act contains provisions for protecting Areas of Critical State Concern and gives the state authority to regulate DRIs).

The State Comprehensive Plan (part of Chapter 187, Florida Statutes).

Rule 9J-5 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C), Rules of Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments.

Approved February 1, 2011.



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