



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Bullsugar Alliance
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/
Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
Tropical Audubon Society

Resolution Opposing SB1402 and HB7043: State Assumption of Federal Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permitting Authority

WHEREAS, SB1402/HB7043 would allow Florida to take over aspects of the Clean Water Act Section 404 program and would remove the Army Corps of Engineers from reviewing projects that propose dredging or filling in wetlands; and

WHEREAS, removal of the Army Corps of Engineers as a federal regulator creates uncertainty in how other federal laws will be complied with, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, and National Historic Preservation Act, amongst others; and

WHEREAS, it has not been determined how the state of Florida -which is one of the most biodiverse areas in the nation, that is home to dozens of listed species- would address Endangered Species Act compliance; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida has stated that it does not anticipate additional financial resources will be needed to take on the Clean Water Act Section 404 program, even though reviewers would need to be trained on Clean Water Act and would be responsible for reviewing permits under a differing set of regulations than exists under the state’s wetland regulatory program; and

WHEREAS, wetlands are critical to cleansing water, helping to recharge groundwater supplies, providing fish and wildlife habitat, and maintaining a natural infrastructure that helps store flood waters and provide resiliency in storm events; and

WHEREAS, Florida has already lost a substantial amount of historical wetlands, and remaining intact wetland ecosystems are at risk from the projected human population increase to 33.7 million residents by 2070.

WHEREAS, in the face of increased growth and development, the protection and restoration of the Greater Everglades –an ecosystem largely comprised of wetland habitats- is better accomplished by maintaining the existing oversight from federal agencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Everglades Coalition with its over 60 member organizations committed to the protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, hereby opposes SB1402 and its House companion HB7043, as originally filed, which would allow the state of Florida to pursue wetland permitting under the federal Clean Water Act Section 404.

Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades