Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/ Riverwatch
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
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry Glades Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
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 Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

A Resolution of the Everglades Coalition Regarding a Proposed New I-75 Interchange At or Near Everglades Boulevard in Collier County

Whereas the 1972 I-75/Alligator Alley Environmental Impact Statement stated: "The purpose of the east-west length of this I-75 project is to provide fast, safe and efficient transportation across South Florida, not to improve transportation and accessibility for the immediate land uses," and

Whereas in the Statement of Findings for the permits issued in June 1987, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wrote that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) "indicated that an access to I-75 at Everglades Boulevard could not be provided," and

Whereas the FDOT Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Summary Report for this proposed interchange states that in a review of cooperating agencies, "no purpose or need comments were found," and

Whereas the current proposal does not include the enormous cost of the extensive infrastructure necessary to support the interchange, including purchasing right-of-way and permitting, mitigating, and building the many bridges and hundreds of road-lane miles, and

Whereas to date there is insufficient data for growth in population, employment, and traffic to justify the project and the mandatory Interchange Justification Report has yet to be approved by the Federal Highway Administration, and

Whereas the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has expressed grave concerns over likely impacts to the endangered Florida panther and Florida black bear, as well as numerous other imperiled species of wildlife, due to loss and fragmentation of habitat, as well as increased roadkills resulting from induced development and lack of roadway barrier fencing and underpasses, and

Whereas costs will be insurmountable to locate, purchase, and restore the tens of thousands of suitable acres needed to replace the 10,000 acres of panther habitat that wildlife biologists estimate will be a direct loss to the proposed interchange and the accompanying roads, infrastructure, and development, and

Whereas there are much less expensive and less environmentally harmful non-interchange options available now to address the legitimate transportation concerns in Golden Gate Estates, including building bridges across canals to interconnect the

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road network and utilizing emergency evacuation access already existing onto I-75 at Everglades Boulevard,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Everglades Coalition and its 54 member organizations oppose the construction of an interchange on I-75/Alligator Alley at or near Everglades Boulevard. The proposed interchange in Collier County and its accompanying highway and bridge network present insurmountable social, financial, and environmental hurdles that require this opposition.

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