Resolution for the Adoption of
Numeric Nutrient Criteria for the State of Florida

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition is committed to the restoration, protection and enhancement of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem by protecting Florida’s waters from excessive nutrient pollution from anthropogenic sources such as sewage, animal manure, and fertilizer;

WHEREAS, based upon waters assessed and reported in Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s 2010 Integrated Water Quality Assessment, approximately 1,918 miles of rivers and streams, 378,435 acres of lakes, and 569 square miles of estuaries are known to be impaired for nutrients in the state;

WHEREAS, the many lakes, streams, rivers, and canals in South Florida degraded with nutrient pollution are tributaries to the expansive Everglades ecosystem;

WHEREAS, excess nutrients cause toxic algae blooms throughout the state’s waterways that kill wildlife and cause infections, rashes and respiratory problems among swimmers and beachgoers;

WHEREAS, algae blooms cause severe economic harm to businesses that are dependent on clean water and the costs of continued water quality degradation erode our tourism-based economy and waterfront real estate values;

WHEREAS, the previous water quality standard in Florida for nutrient pollution was narrative and therefore unenforceable, apparent in the increase in harmful and nuisance algae blooms throughout the state;

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection failed to issue numeric water quality standards eleven years after being commissioned to do so by the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

WHEREAS, on November 15th 2010, the EPA unveiled new limits that cap the amount of nutrient pollution allowed in Florida’s lakes, rivers, streams, and springs; and

WHEREAS, development of estuarine and South Florida canal criteria is currently underway,

Therefore, now be it resolved, that

The Everglades Coalition, in the interest of protecting Florida’s water resources, fully supports the EPA’s efforts to address nutrient pollution by setting numeric nutrient criteria. We urge the EPA and our Congressional leaders to ensure that such criteria are adequately protective, enforced in a timely manner, and safeguarded from attempts to undermine or further delay their implementation.

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