



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
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

March 2, 2010

The Honorable George LeMieux
United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator LeMieux,

On behalf of the 53 organizations of the Everglades Coalition, and the more than 6 million members we represent, we are writing to urge you to support enactment of comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation this year because it will boost new job creation, and provide numerous and important benefits to Florida's economy and Florida's sensitive natural environment, water resources, and wildlife.

On January 27, 32 organizations, including many of the national environmental groups we represent in Florida, sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and members of the U.S. Senate urging the Senate to enact "meaningful, comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation that will reinvigorate our economy and create millions of new jobs while reducing global warming pollution." We support that call to action, which is so important for Florida's environment and America's Everglades.

The Everglades, as you have said, is "Florida's one-of-a-kind ecosystem" and it is increasingly vulnerable—as are the other natural areas and built communities in our low lying state—to the impacts of climate change. If greenhouse gas emissions are not curbed in Florida and nationwide, the consequences of climate change, including but not limited to sea level rise and salt water intrusion will be exacerbated.

The United States and the State of Florida are investing billions of dollars in a decades-long effort to restore the ecological health and resilience of the unique Everglades ecosystem. In 2008, the National Academy of Sciences recognized the additional stressors climate change poses to the Everglades and recommended that these impacts be factored into restoration planning. Immediate action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its impacts must go hand in hand with the monumental public investment to restore the River of Grass. Passage of comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation is the best course to address climate change impacts and to generate additional revenue that would be designated to wildlife and natural resources adaptation.

The low-lying state of Florida is among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change worldwide. It is also one of the most favorable locations for expansion of a robust renewable energy market, which would be stimulated by the passage of national climate and energy legislation. Studies commissioned by the Florida Public

www.evergladescoalition.org

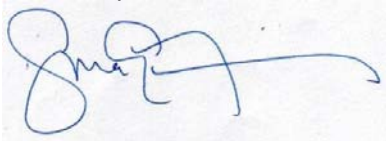
Ph: 954-961-1280 ♦ Fax: 954-985-5047 ♦ 450 N. Park Rd, #301, Hollywood FL 33021

Service Commission in 2009 found that the state has enough renewable energy potential in solar, biomass, and other renewable energy sources, to meet up to 20% of its electricity generation within a decade.

Passage of clean energy legislation alone will not be sufficient to mitigate these serious impacts nor will it provide the resources necessary to adapt to the impacts of climate change. As our national colleagues stated, "Energy and climate legislation must be connected and comprehensive to create the opportunity to build a new clean energy economy that secures our energy supplies, fosters innovation, and creates the new jobs we so desperately need here in the U.S. The U.S. has repeatedly passed major energy-only bills – most recently in 2005 and 2007 – that have failed to achieve the kinds of results needed now."

Senator LeMieux, we urge you to support passage of comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation this year. By doing so, you would make the most of a one-of-a-kind and important opportunity to stimulate Florida's economy, support additional revenues for restoration of its one-of-a-kind Everglades ecosystem, and protect freshwater resources and wildlife.

Sincerely,



Sara Fain
National Co-Chair
305-546-6689
sfain@npca.org



Mark Perry
State Co-Chair
772-225-0505 x103
mperry@fos-cc.org