



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
 Florida Native Plant Society
 Florida Oceanographic Society
 Florida Sierra Club
 Florida Wildlife Federation
 Friends of the 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

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
 Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20360

April 13, 2011

Dear Administrator Jackson,

On behalf of the 53 organizations of the Everglades Coalition and our members and supporters in Florida, thank you for your commitment to improving water quality across the country. We write to ask you to prioritize a specific course of action in your plans for achieving clean water. We need to restore the Clean Water Act.

The Everglades is the hallmark of Florida – a unique ecosystem found nowhere else on earth – that provides our state with clean drinking water, incredible biodiversity, and countless recreational opportunities for Floridians and visitors alike. We need to do everything possible to protect the source waters of the Everglades and important rivers, lakes and streams across the United States.

The health of our waters is in crisis. Beginning in 1972, the Clean Water Act protected all the nation’s waters, from small, unnamed streams, to the Mississippi River. But now, because of two bitterly divided Supreme Court decisions (*SWANCC* in 2001 and *Rapanos* in 2006), legal uncertainty threatens countless critical resources with unregulated pollution, including headwater streams, lakes, tributaries, and wetlands.

The threat is enormous. Here in Florida, according to EPA data, 30% of streams in Florida could lose protection because they are headwater streams and no other streams flow into them, not to mention that Florida has more wetlands than any other state. Nationwide, an estimated 59% of the nation’s streams do not flow year-round, and 20% of the roughly 100 million acres of wetlands in the continental U.S. are “isolated.” These kinds of resources face the greatest risk of losing protections. Small and seasonal streams help feed the drinking water supplies for more than 117 million Americans.

To help Everglades restoration, we urge you to issue a rulemaking to end the confusion over which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act and help reaffirm the broad scope of the Clean Water Act that existed for more than three decades. By restoring the Clean Water Act to ensure pre-*SWANCC* and *Rapanos* protections, the EPA can put us back on track to becoming a country where all our waters will be safe for us to swim in and fish from, and all Americans will have access to safe drinking water.

Thank you again for your dedication to protecting our waterways.

Sincerely,

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