Resolution Opposing Legislative Attempts to Weaken the Clean Water Act

WHEREAS the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure;

WHEREAS, Florida waters support a substantial and economically significant fishing industry, which depend on clean water resources;

WHEREAS, Florida’s economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which tourism generated over $4.0 billion in taxable sales, including eco-tourism and recreation in the Everglades;

WHEREAS, algal blooms in Florida, caused by polluted water, have become persistent and reoccurring, and thus pose a threat to seagrass, fish, and invertebrate communities;

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has failed to improve water quality to adequately protect plants and wildlife from negative impacts;

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act was established with the goals of eliminating releases of high amounts of toxic substances into water, eliminating additional water pollution and ensuring that surface waters would meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation;

WHEREAS, federal legislation has been proposed that would vastly weaken the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act by removing its ability to act when a state has failed to meet its goals;

WHEREAS, protecting and improving the quality of Florida’s waters is necessary for the wellbeing of Florida’s environment, the health of Florida’s families and Florida’s economy.

Therefore be it resolved,

The Everglades Coalition, with 53 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring the Everglades ecosystem, hereby opposes attempts to weaken the Federal Clean Water Act through H.R. 2018 the “Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011” and any other companion or substantially similar legislation or Amendments.

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