



# Everglades Coalition

June 26, 2015

Re: Air show exhibition at Dade-Collier Training and Transition airport

Dear County Mayor and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition and its 57 member organizations, we write to oppose the use of the Dade-Collier Training and Transition airport for a trade-style air show exhibition. The very idea of commercializing this facility flies in direct conflict with the original creation of America's first National Preserve to protect the Big Cypress Swamp and the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Big Cypress National Preserve was established "to assure the preservation, conservation, and protection of the natural, scenic, hydrologic, floral and faunal, and recreational values of the Big Cypress Watershed in the State of Florida and to provide for the enhancement and public enjoyment thereof ..." 16 U.S.C. § 698f(a). The preserve's creation came about due to the valiant efforts of the hunting, off-road vehicle, and environmental communities banding together to thwart the detrimental and inappropriate airport development proposal in this environmentally sensitive area.

This proposal would undoubtedly bring significant long-term impacts to a remote, ecologically-sensitive area and result in pressure for further development. Structures, electricity, water and sewer, and emergency services would be necessary to serve work crews and large crowds drawn by aerospace machinery. Roadways would need to accommodate the equipment used to transport materials, equipment, and participants. Performance of the show itself carries risk of aerial bird collisions, jet fuel spills and exhaust releases, and noise impacts that will disrupt native wildlife, nesting birds, the endangered Florida panther, and tourists to the nearby Oasis Visitor's Center.

We urge the County to put a stop to this idea before any more time or resources are wasted in planning efforts. Someone has tried to sell the County a jar of snake oil in contradiction to its responsibilities. From the 1960's, the County committed to locate another site for the flight training activities and transfer the land in question back to the Department of Interior. However, since then the County has attempted to turn this unique natural area into a money maker in one way or

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
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  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
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  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
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  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades*

another, including rock mining and other incompatible activities – rather than seeking to protect this amazing place.

Any attempt to continue to develop the jetport as a commercial air show will be met with vehement opposition from the Everglades Coalition and its member organizations. Instead, we offer our assistance to the County in finding more suitable alternative training grounds and to protecting this unique place. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Totoiu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair