Resolution by the Everglades Coalition

to support removing barriers to customer-sited solar power and support for the Floridians for Solar Choice ballot petition

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem has competing demands for water, including from the power sector, and water quality and quantity are critical for Everglades restoration;

WHEREAS, unlike conventional power generation, solar power generates electricity with zero air emissions and no water use, thereby moving the state to a cleaner and more water-smart and sustainable energy future;

WHEREAS, Florida has the greatest potential for rooftop solar power of any state in the eastern United States. Rooftop solar uses existing rooftop infrastructure and has limited or no impacts to land, endangered species, and the terrestrial environment;

WHEREAS, yet with 9 million electric utility customer accounts, Florida has a mere 8,546 customer-sited solar systems,\(^1\) in contrast to less sunny states like New Jersey which has over 35,000 customer-sited solar systems\(^2\) but only half the population of Florida;

WHEREAS, Florida is one of only four states in the United States that by law expressly denies citizens and businesses the freedom to buy solar power electricity directly from someone other than a power company;

WHEREAS, allowing non-utility solar providers to provide solar-generated electricity, through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), directly to customers can remove the upfront cost for solar power systems to Florida homeowners and businesses and expand solar power options to residential and commercial tenants — thereby expanding the choice for solar power to all Floridians;

WHEREAS, in states such as New York and New Jersey, where non-utilities can provide solar generated power directly to customers, there has been significant solar development in the residential sector. It has driven anywhere from 67% (New York) to 92% (New Jersey) of residential installations in those states\(^3\);

WHEREAS, removing barriers to solar choice will allow more Floridians to take advantage of the power of the sun and expand solar rooftop development in Florida moving the state to a cleaner, more water-smart and sustainable energy future that will invariably improve prospects for Everglades restoration; and

Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition, with its 58 member organizations committed to the full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, urges the Florida Legislature to remove the barrier that limits the sale of solar-generated electricity directly to a customer from anyone other than a power company, and supports the Floridians for Solar Choice ballot petition to amend the Florida Constitution.

Adopted October 29th, 2015

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair