



# EVERGLADES COALITION

## **A Resolution of the Everglades Coalition Opposing Burnett Oil Company's Applications to Initiate New Oil Developments in Big Cypress National Preserve**

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Everglades is recognized as one of the world's most unique and spectacular natural wonders, and Florida has a long-term interest in protecting and restoring the ecosystem due to its incredible economic and ecologic value;

**WHEREAS**, Big Cypress National Preserve conserves over 729,000 acres of freshwater swamp and native habitats in the Greater Everglades ecosystem, and contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to diverse wildlife, including endangered Florida panthers;

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Everglades includes within it the western Everglades, most of which is protected by Big Cypress National Preserve, an integral watershed that provides over 40% of the water flowing through the Greater Everglades and into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay;

**WHEREAS**, the western Everglades region is also home to Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Picayune Strand State Forest, and Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary among a network of conservation lands that are intrinsically linked to the health of Big Cypress National Preserve;

**WHEREAS**, the waters of the Greater Everglades play a crucial role in flowing waters to vital estuaries and recharging the aquifers that supply drinking water to one-third of all Floridians – nearly eight million people – and thereby support Florida's tourism, fishing, and real estate economies;

**WHEREAS**, implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is a multi-billion dollar state and federal investment to restore the hydrology and ecology of the Greater Everglades;

**WHEREAS**, oil and gas development poses a significant threat to Florida's water supply, wildlife, ecosystem and community health, and the success of ongoing state and federal investments in Everglades restoration;

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ON MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 2021:**

The Everglades Coalition opposes Burnett Oil Company's applications to initiate new oil development activity (including but not limited to the development of new oil well pads, roads, and aquifer drilling) in Big Cypress National Preserve, a protected unit of the National Park system that is vital to protecting the lands and waters of the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

Mark Perry  
Co-Chair

Marisa Carrozzo  
Co-Chair

*The Everglades Coalition is a 501(c)3 alliance of local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades.*