RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION 2014 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition is committed to protecting lands critical to the future of Florida’s drinking water, economy, recreation, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has reduced funding of the Florida Forever Program by 97.5 percent since 2009 and State trust funds historically allocated to protecting and restoring critical conservation and restoration efforts, including the Florida Forever program, will run dry unless voters pass the Water and Land Conservation Amendment; and

WHEREAS, regular and consistent funding is required to ensure the continuity of public lands, parks, and other natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment would create the Land Acquisition Trust Fund by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents (the documentary stamp tax) to funding water and land conservation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2014 Constitutional amendment would make those funds available for Everglades restoration initiatives and protection of important streams, wetlands, forests, and beaches; and

WHEREAS, through the initiative petition process, 750,000 signatures are needed to place the amendment titled, “Water and Land Conservation”, on the November 2014 Ballot.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1) The Everglades Coalition, endorses the constitutional amendment proposed to be placed on the November 2014 ballot which would support Everglades restoration and other water and land conservation throughout Florida.

2) The Everglades Coalition supports the goal of gathering up to 1 million signatures in order to place the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional amendment on the 2014 Ballot.

Approved January 10, 2013.

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