



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Collier County Audubon Society  
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  
National Audubon Society  
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

## **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NEW STATE LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE REGULATORY OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT OF OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN FLORIDA**

WHEREAS the current laws and regulations in Chapter 377 Florida Statutes and 62C-25 through 30 Florida Administrative Code are ill-equipped to address new and emerging oil-drilling and unconventional extraction technologies, including what is commonly described as “fracking” or “acid fracking”.

WHEREAS unauthorized unconventional drilling took place this past year in the Western Everglades region in Collier County, Florida. During this procedure, highly hazardous and carcinogenic substances were injected into a production well under pressure through well casings that passed through aquifers used for drinking water and within close proximity of the Camp Keais Strand that flows to the Picayune Everglades restoration project,

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing is presently permitted under Florida law as a “workover” operation (FAC 62C-25.002) and requires only that a permit-holder notify FDEP of a “workover operation” and gives the state no legal authority to approve or deny such operations,

WHEREAS, applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for oil-drilling permits utilizing now including unconventional drilling techniques are increasing in the Western Everglades region.

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a unique hydrogeological environment with porous geology and a interconnected surface and groundwater, making Florida’s groundwater vulnerable to contamination,

WHEREAS, chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, and similar extreme extraction operations, including toxic chemicals that pose a public health risk, are not currently disclosed to FDEP until after a permit is issued,

WHEREAS, chemical components of fluids used in hydraulic fracturing, and similar operations, are often withheld from the public through classification as trade secrets based solely on the applicant’s determination and such information is necessary for emergency response and public water supply protection,

WHEREAS, current law does not require applicant to be fully financially responsible for any site remediation necessary and bonding amounts are insufficient, allowing an applicant to purchase a blanket bond for up to 10 extraction wells,

WHEREAS, an applicant is not required to provide FDEP with its well records, such as pressure logs that could indicate leakage in a well,

WHEREAS, abandoned and improperly plugged drilling holes in the vicinity of newly proposed drilling or injection wells present another means of contaminating drinking water but are not currently considered when permits are issued,

WHEREAS, FDEP after issuing a drilling permit has no authority to access or examine a drilling site without the land owner and well operator's permission to investigate, enforce, and remediate possible violations,

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has not assessed the risks of hydraulic fracturing and similar unconventional drilling and extraction technologies to assess potential impacts to important wildlife and water resources as well as to Everglades restoration,

WHEREAS, permit applications for thousands of acres of oil and gas exploration are being considered in southwest Florida which may result in future oil drilling within the Everglades,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Everglades Coalition, with 56 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, asks the Florida Legislature to pass legislation in its 2015 regular session to properly regulate hydraulic fracturing and other similar unconventional oil extraction techniques.

The Everglades Coalition asks for legislation which will require:

- the applicant to apply for a new permit to utilize technologies similar to, and including, hydraulic fracturing;
- the applicant to disclose to FDEP in advance all chemicals it will be injecting, including quantities and concentrations;
- a waste disposal plan stating where and how wastewater will be disposed of;
- the applicant post a sufficient bond prior to construction of each well and that includes language to hold the operator responsible for any and all remediation;
- the applicant to provide FDEP with pressure logs, a stimulation record, and a list of water sources used;
- the applicant to include a map of boreholes in a project area and address those that are near to the drilling site; to establish limits on how close a well may be to an existing borehole unless bore hole is plugged to current plugging and abandonment standards;
- the applicant to pay a drilling fee which will be used by FDEP to monitor extraction projects for environmental violations;
- the applicant to allow FDEP to access and inspect oil-drilling sites for compliance to permits; and

- monetary and injunctive penalties for well operators that do not comply with any of the above.

The Coalition also asks the Legislature to require oil-drilling applicants to publicly disclose what chemicals are being used in a state managed database and to suspend the permitting of proposed projects using hydraulic fracturing and any other unconventional oil drilling or extraction technique until a comprehensive study on direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental risks is completed.

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