

The Everglades Coalition

July 23, 2004

Governor Bush
Cabinet Members
Florida Attorney General
Secretary of the DCA
Palm Beach County Commissioners
Hendry County Commissioners

To Whom It May Concern:

The Everglades Coalition asks that the Florida Cabinet use its influence to encourage imposition of a moratorium on land use changes or development in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Suburbs in Palm Beach County are moving rapidly westward. Without a moratorium they are sure to reach the EAA, now covered mainly in sugar cane fields. We ask that the moratorium continue until it is determined conclusively that, individually or cumulatively, changes in the EAA will not negatively impact restoration of the Everglades or Lake Okeechobee.

The Coalition, composed of 45 environmental and related national and local groups, this week approved a resolution calling for the moratorium. We also are sending our moratorium request to other state and county agencies that have control over land use. The request is based on the facts that the Wellington city limits now border the EAA, that the owners of some of the cane fields have requested their annexation into the city, that the EAA is listed as one alternative to the Scripps site and that some state-owned land farther west has been recommended for a government employment center.

We long have been concerned about the future use of the EAA because it once was a critical part of the Everglades. In the past the Coalition approved a resolution calling for designation of the EAA as an Area of Critical State Concern and another urging government to buy the land as it goes out of agricultural production, predicted to happen because of the subsiding peat and muck. The Everglades Agricultural Area was the headwaters of the River of Grass before it was drained the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s.

We are confident that you share our concerns about the EAA's future.

Sincerely,

Juanita Greene
Chair, EAA Team

305-774-0253
700 Biltmore Way, No. 407
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134