



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Bullsugar Alliance
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association
Caloosahatchee Waterkeeper
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Lake Worth Waterkeeper
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
Tropical Audubon Society

A RESOLUTION OF THE EVERGLADES COALITION SUPPORTING AMENDMENT 9 TO PROHIBIT OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

WHEREAS, the Everglades is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States and is home to plants and animals that occur nowhere else on Earth;

WHEREAS, the Everglades delivers immeasurable ecological and economic benefits to Florida and help define the iconic Florida lifestyle which includes bird and wildlife watching, boating, fishing, hiking, and snorkeling and diving;

WHEREAS, the Greater Everglades Ecosystem is a vast network of wetlands and watersheds, spanning from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to the Florida Keys and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico; and is a key economic driver for Florida, a significant national resource, an international treasure, RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance, World Heritage Site, and International Biosphere Reserve;

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is recognized as the most biodiverse lagoon ecosystem in the Northern Hemisphere and is home to more than 10,000 species of plants and animals, including a significant population of Florida manatees and is one of the few places in America where one can experience bioluminescence;

WHEREAS, the Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee River Estuaries are the only known pupping grounds for the smalltooth sawfish;

WHEREAS, Florida Bay has more than 200 mangrove islands and is home to the American crocodile, Florida manatee, loggerhead sea turtle, bottlenose dolphin, as well as a variety of birds and gamefish;

WHEREAS, the Florida Reef is one of the world's largest coral reefs and hosts a vast variety of sea life, including more than 50 species of coral and 500 species of fish;

WHEREAS, the mangroves that buffer the lower Everglades stabilize the coastline, reduce erosion from storm surge, and provide food and shelter to scores of marine species;

WHEREAS, the Everglades has a unique hydrology and geology with its flat topography, rain-driven aquifer recharge, porous limestone, and inconsistent confining layers of the that are extremely sensitive to potential adverse impacts from offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction;

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry has exemptions from provisions in major federal environmental statutes intended to protect human health and the environment that otherwise protect the Everglades ecosystem including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act; National Environmental Policy Act; and Toxic Release Inventory under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act;

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

WHEREAS, the restoration and protection of the Greater Everglades ecosystem is vital to protecting Florida's environment, economy, and drinking water; and is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, BP's *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig exploded killing 11 men and releasing more than 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, making the spill the largest ocean spill and environmental catastrophe in U.S. history;

WHEREAS, the oil from *Deepwater Horizon* and the dispersants used to address it caused devastating harm to birds, sea turtles, fish, marine mammals, coral, oysters, seagrass, and plankton;

WHEREAS, under ordinary circumstances, gas exploration leads to an estimated 195 million gallons of gas lost into our oceans each year;

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Rita and Katrina damaged or destroyed 113 oil platforms, 457 oil pipelines and caused 124 offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico totaling more the 9 million gallons;

WHEREAS, a relatively minor oil spill could dramatically impact Florida's coastline, rendering areas uninhabitable for marine life, destroying entire food webs, and crippling our coastal economy;

WHEREAS, seismic surveying uses air guns to create explosive blasts to determine the size and location of oil and gas reserves, can be detected for thousands of miles, and have been found to damage and kill fish eggs and larvae, disrupt migratory patterns of marine wildlife, and push marine life from suitable habitat;

WHEREAS, oil and gas operations require roads, storage tanks, pipelines, processing facilities, and other industrial facilities which can damage beaches, wetlands, and coastal habitats; and

WHEREAS, efforts to allow oil drilling off Florida's coasts are a near-constant threat and could have devastating impacts on the Greater Everglades ecosystem's restoration efforts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The Everglades Coalition, with its 62 member organizations committed to the protection and restoration of America's Everglades, hereby supports Amendment 9 which would prohibit drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all Florida-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state's outermost territorial boundaries.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 2018.



Mark Perry
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo
Co-Chair

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