



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

The Honorable Senator Nelson
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 9, 2014

Dear Senator Nelson:

From the Hillsborough River to the Everglades, Florida's waterways are treasures. Our environment, our public health, and our way of life all depend on the health of our rivers, lakes, and streams. Therefore, on behalf of the Everglades Coalition's 56 organizations and our tens of thousands of members, we are writing to thank you for your leadership on clean water. We value and need your leadership now more than ever to speak out in favor of EPA's clean water rule. This is the Obama administration's most significant step forward for clean water to date – proposing a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to over 15,000 miles of Florida's streams, including many of those that feed and filter into crucial areas like the Everglades and Tampa Bay.

Over your years in the Senate, Floridians have been able to depend on you as a strong voice for the waters we love. Your work to help ensure that the Gulf of Mexico gets the protections it deserves has been invaluable.

As you know, Clean Water Act protections for small and intermittently flowing streams and a host of wetlands have been in limbo for more than a decade because of a pair of Supreme Court cases and subsequent policies the Bush administration put in place to implement those court rulings. As a result, some categories of Florida's waterbodies have been almost entirely written off, and others have been harder to protect. When finalized, this rule will help ensure that these waterways get the protection they deserve and protect the drinking water for millions of Floridians. Already, tens of thousands of Floridians have weighed in in support of the proposal.

As some members of Congress launch attack after attack on these commonsense efforts to protect waterways in Florida and across the country, we urge you to continue to stand up as a leader for our rivers, lakes, and bays and speak out to elevate the importance of the proposed Clean Water Act rule so that this and many more efforts to protect the waterways we love will become a reality.

Sincerely,

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Totoiu", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair