



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
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
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
of Greater Miami

June 26, 2014

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0903

Dear Senator Nelson,

The Everglades Coalition would like to thank you for taking the lead in battling water quality issues through your sponsorship and championing of The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014. Your dedication to protecting Florida's waters is highly recognized, applauded, and appreciated.

As an alliance of more than fifty local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem, the Everglades Coalition maintains a significant focus on the damaging effects of HABs and hypoxia on our waters. Over the past three years, The Indian River Lagoon alone has lost more than 47,000 acres of sea grass to algae – resulting in the death of native wildlife such as fish, pelicans, dolphins and manatees. This harmful trend has been experienced in each and every estuary within the greater Everglades ecosystem and requires immediate action.

The passage of the aforementioned bill is of critical significance to the Everglades Coalition and Florida residents alike, as it will aid communities greatly affected by outbreaks of HABs and Hypoxia whom currently struggle every year with the health, economic, and environmental consequences of these frequent occurrences. The designation of \$82 million of federal funds will not only aid the battle against large algae blooms through research and critical scientific studies, but will also provide a basis to support communities struggling through such periods of peak algal blooms. Specifically, the proposal within the bill ensuring that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will send \$20.5 million annually through 2018 to local

governments coping with algal outbreaks will make a significant positive impact on numerous affected communities throughout Florida.

The passage of this bill is an important tool in further understanding, anticipating, and mitigating the effects of hypoxia and HABs nationwide, and is a noteworthy step towards restoring the health and quality of our vital waterways in Florida. We thank you for remaining vigilant and acknowledging the link between the quality of our waterways and the health of our residents, wildlife, economy, and environment.

Sincerely,

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Totoiu". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a smaller, more complex mark at the end.

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair