

FLORIDA FOREVER

COALITION

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE

The Nature Conservancy
Audubon of Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Florida Wildlife Federation
Trust for Public Land
1000 Friends of Florida
Florida Recreation & Park Assoc.

REGIONAL LEADERS

Frank Bruno
Duane DeFreese
Jim Sellen
Joel Ivey
Jim & Jonnie Swann
Clay Henderson
Jean Reed
Mike Adams
Joseph & Margaret Branham
Ken LaRoe
Cary Lightsey
Dean Saunders
Jim Thomas
Carmen Dominguez
Rick Hartman
David Price
Jerry Montgomery
Bob Dallari
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February 12, 2010

Honorable State Senator
State Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator:

As leaders of central Florida committed to our state's future, we strongly urge your support for restored funding for Florida Forever.

PROTECTING THE BEST OF FLORIDA: As you know, Florida Forever is without new funding this year for the first time in two decades. We believe that it is essential for the Legislature to continue Florida Forever. This will benefit our environment, protect our water resources, create economic activity, and enhance our quality of life.

SERVING CENTRAL FLORIDA: Florida Forever enables us to protect the highest priority park land, farm land, and natural places for future Floridians. In Central Florida, these include the "Seven Jewels" identified by the MyRegion process -- the Greater Kissimmee Prairie, Green Swamp, Indian River Lagoon, Lake Wales Ridge, St. Johns Mosaic & Econlockhatchee, Volusia Conservation Corridor, and Wekiva-Ocala Greenway.

AN ECONOMIC INVESTMENT: Florida Forever guarantees the natural beauty that underpins life in Florida and that attracts millions of visitors here every year. Florida Forever lands help to protect the water resources upon which all residents and businesses depend. It helps sustain our award-winning Florida State Parks and supports the hunting, fishing and wildlife watching that supported 120,000 jobs in 2007, generating approximately \$6.8 billion in retail sales and \$706 million in state and local taxes. There has never been a better time than today, with historically low land values, to make this investment in the future of our state.

A GREAT CONSERVATION TRADITION: Florida Forever is a product of the dedication of millions of Floridians and elected leaders including former Governors Jeb Bush, Bob Martinez, Bob Graham, and Reubin Askew, all co-chairs of our Coalition. Today more than 175 diverse organizations, businesses, and

agencies support restoring Florida Forever funding. Governor Charlie Crist, CFO Alex Sink, Attorney General Bill McCollum, and State Senator Paula Dockery are all committed to the cause.

COME "TAKE A HIKE": As part of our effort to bring public awareness to the benefits of Florida Forever, we invite you to join us for a hike in Seminole County. On February 20, as part of "Take A Hike, Florida!" the Coalition is sponsoring a hike at the Little Big Econ State Forest. Attached is a flyer with event details. We hope you'll take this opportunity to experience Florida's natural wonders, get outdoors and enjoy a hike. Please RSVP to Holly Davenport at 850-222-0199 or hdavenport@tnc.org.

If you wish to support Florida Forever, or to gain more information about its benefits in your district, please contact Janet Bowman at 850-251-9406 or janet_bowman@tnc.org. Please join us in working to advance Florida Forever.

Sincerely,

Frank Bruno
County Commissioner
Volusia County

Duane DeFreese
Marine Scientist
Brevard County

Jim Sellen
Planner
Orange County

Joel Ivey
Planner
Seminole County

Jim and Jonnie Swann
Brevard County

Clay Henderson
Attorney
Volusia County

Jean Reed
County Commissioner
Polk County

Mike Adams
Pres., Adams Ranch
Osceola County

Joseph and Margaret Branham
Owners, Bugg Spring
Lake County

Ken LaRoe
Bank CEO & Chairman
Lake County

Cary Lightsey
Lightsey Cattle Co.
Polk County

Dean Saunders
Realtor
Polk County

Jim Thomas
Business Owner
Orange County

Carmen Dominguez
Carmen Dominguez Construction
Orange County

Rick Hartman
Realtor
Polk County

David Price
Pres., Bok Towers
Polk County

Jerry Montgomery
Business Owner
Osceola County

Bob Dallari
County Commissioner
Seminole County

Jacob V. Stuart
President/CEO
Central Florida Partnership