



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

February 11, 2009

Dear Mr. Salt and Ms. Scarlett,

As you may know, the Rivers Coalition formed in 1998 as a result of the huge damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River. Over the decades, those discharges have periodically collapsed the local ecosystem, crippled our economy and as recently as 2005, rendered the waters of the river unsafe for human contact. The Rivers Coalition represents over 200,000 individuals through 50 member organizations of business, environmental and civic groups. We have long advocated the restoration of the health of the Everglades and estuaries by the creation of a more natural flow southward.

At our January meeting, the Rivers Coalition voted "to endorse the DOI Vision and Plan for Successful Everglades restoration, the concept of the River of Grass Restoration Reserve, and the protection of the estuaries."

We offer our endorsement and assistance. Please contact us if the Rivers Coalition or I, personally, can be of assistance to you during these historic times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Leon Abood'.

Leon Abood, Chairman



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C.C. Governor Crist
Senator Mel Martinez
Senator Bill Nelson
Congressman Tom Rooney
Representative William Snyder
Eric Buermann, SFWMD Board of Director
Michael Collins, SFWMD Board of Director
Charles Dauray, SFWMD Board of Director
Shannon Estenoz, SFWMD Board of Director
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