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Rivers Coalition Defense Fund

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February 9, 2015

To: Governor Rick Scott and All Interested Parties

Re: The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment

The Rivers Coalition and its legal arm, the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund, strongly urge you to utilize part of the funds generated by Amendment One to proceed with the Missing Link Flowway and purchase of lands under option.

The Flowway, long supported by hydrology experts, would extend south from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades. It would curtail excess discharges that now cause enormous ecological damages to the east and west coasts in wet years.

Clearly, the flowway is one of the most important necessities for Everglades restoration, as detailed at [Rivers Coalition.org](http://RiversCoalition.org). The state has an option to purchase critically needed property for the flowway. It is imperative that the public gain ownership of the land, which comprises less than 15% of the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Now is the time for action. Virtually our entire regional economy is based on the health of our waterways, ranging from major pollution concerns to usage by the people.

We ask that leaders of the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund, the Florida Oceanographic Society, the Southwest Florida Watershed Council, Everglades Foundation, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation and others, who are continually involved in the flowway concept, be an integral part of all research and planning regarding Amendment One.

Sincerely,

Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Board of Directors