



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

**RIVERS COALITION RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING H.R. 4793
Everglades Land Acquisition Act of 2016**

WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades and its associated estuaries are an internationally unique ecosystem, a national treasure and a significant economic driver for Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Florida and Martin County, in overwhelming majority, voted to support the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Amendment 1; and

WHEREAS, additional land is needed to "flow" water during the dry/rainy season and eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and provide water supply for the natural system; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of key parcels completes the "River of Grass Flow Way"; reduces harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee; improves the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades; protects water supply interests; and supports a healthier ecological environment for Lake Okeechobee and the associated estuaries; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Rivers Coalition is to fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.

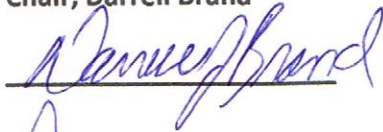
Therefore be it resolved:

The Rivers Coalition, representing 84 member organizations and over 300,000 Floridians, hereby endorses H.R. 4793. The Rivers Coalition strongly urges Congressman Patrick Murphy, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Tom Rooney and all of its remaining 25 other U.S. Congressman; to support U.S Rep. Curt Clawson's Bill. This bill has the potential to significantly reduce the discharges, which occur when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases excess Lake O water east into the St. Lucie River and west into the Caloosahatchee River.

Moving water south from Lake Okeechobee is the ultimate solution to the problem. The University of Florida Water Institute report on Lake Okeechobee, released last year, concluded reducing discharges and meeting the Everglades' need for more water "will require between 11,000 and 129,000 acres of additional land" between the lake and the national park.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28TH DAY OF April, 2016

Chair, Darrell Brand



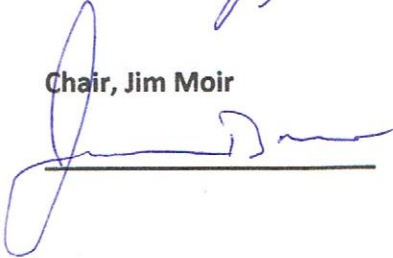
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Chair, Mark Perry



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Chair, Jim Moir



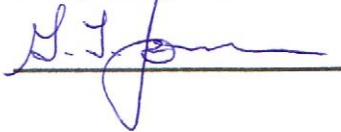
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Chair, Nic Mader



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Chair, George Jones



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