



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

**RIVERS COALITION RESOLUTION**  
**Supporting Sen. Negron's**  
**Plan to Purchase 60,000 acres So. Of Lake Okeechobee**

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"; 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 represents 86 organizations with over 300,000 members that live along, work, or otherwise benefit from the St Lucie River and Estuary, and the Indian River Lagoon. For more than 90 years our region's economy has been sacrificed as the government-sponsored dumping grounds of polluted Lake Okeechobee water for the benefit of areas south of the lake.

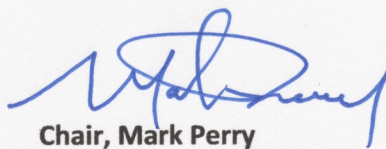
We wholeheartedly support Senator Joe Negron's plan to purchase 60,000 acres (+/-) south of Lake Okeechobee to construct large dynamic reservoir storage that will be the centerpiece of activities to store, clean and convey Lake water south. These activities will help reduce the damaging discharges and restore the historic flow to the Everglades and Florida Bay as envisioned in CERP.

Senator Negron's plan is an historic milestone for estuary and Everglades restoration and we urge all elected officials to support, fund and implement this plan.

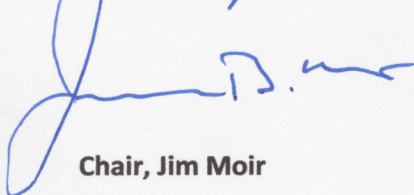
**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF August, 2016**



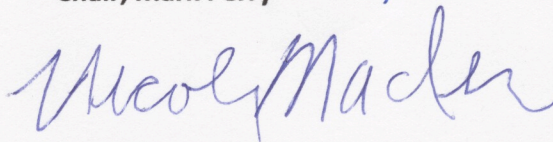
**Chair, Darrell Brand**



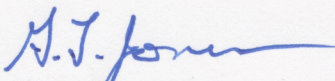
**Chair, Mark Perry**



**Chair, Jim Moir**



**Chair, Nic Mader**



**Chair, George Jones**