



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/
Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Tropical Audubon Society

A RESOLUTION BY THE EVERGLADES COALITION TO OPPOSE AMENDMENT 1 “RIGHTS OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS REGARDING SOLAR ENERGY CHOICE” ON THE FLORIDA BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2016

WHEREAS, solar photovoltaic energy offers many potential benefits, including lower electricity costs for homeowners, businesses, and governments; local jobs and economic development; reduced dependence on imported fuels; pollution-free electricity generation; no water use during power production; and contribution to a more resilient electric grid;

WHEREAS, Florida has the greatest potential for rooftop solar power in the eastern United States. Yet, with 9 million electric utility customer accounts, Florida has less than 12,000 customer-sited solar systems.¹ By comparison, New Jersey has over 43,000 customer-sited solar systems² but only half the population of Florida and a weaker solar resource;

WHEREAS, increased solar-generated electricity, including customer-sited systems on residential and commercial properties, will be a key strategy for achieving the Everglades community’s clean energy goals;

WHEREAS, “net metering” is a Florida state policy that allows families and businesses to generate solar power and send excess power back to the utility grid;

WHEREAS, Amendment 1, entitled “Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice,” will be presented to voters on the November 2016 ballot, and is sponsored by an organization called *Consumers for Smart Solar*;

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 purports to provide a new “choice” for solar power in its title, but no new solar rights are provided; instead critical restrictions would be placed on existing solar rights in the Florida Constitution, according to Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente in her dissent in an Advisory Opinion to the Attorney General on Amendment 1³;

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 will insert in the Florida Constitution an unsupported presumption that solar rooftop customers are “subsidized” by non-solar customers⁴ and that such an argument can be used to weaken or eliminate the state’s net metering policy;

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WHEREAS, *Consumers for Smart Solar* is primarily bankrolled by the state’s big power companies⁵ that oppose current net metering policy⁶;

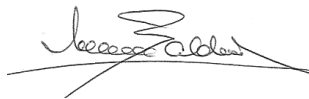
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Everglades Coalition, with its 61 member organizations committed to the protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, hereby opposes Amendment 1 “Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice” on Florida’s November 2016 ballot.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of October, 2016.

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair



Michael J. Baldwin
State Co-Chair

¹ Florida Public Service Commission, *Reporting Requirements for Interconnection and Net Metering, Customer-owned Renewable Generation*, at: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/Files/PDF/Utilities/Electricgas/CustomerRenewable/2015/2015%20Net%20Metering%20Summary%20Spreadsheet/2015%20Net%20Metering%20Chart.pdf>

² New Jersey Clean Energy Program, at: <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/project-activity-reports/installation-summary-by-technology/solar-installation-projects>

³ Florida Supreme Court, Case No. 25-150, at: https://efactssc-public.flcourts.org/casedocuments/2015/2150/2015-2150_disposition_134770.pdf

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Division of Elections, Committee Tracking System, Consumers for Smart Solar at: <http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/committees/ComDetail.asp?account=64817><http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/committees/ComDetail.asp?account=64817>

⁶ Florida Public Service Commission, Response by FPL to Request for Comments on Solar Policy, at: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/Files/PDF/Utilities/Electricgas/SolarEnergy//Florida%20Power%20and%20Light.pdf>

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