

AUDUBON FLORIDA

AUDUBON OF S.W FLORIDA

CLEAN WATER ACTION

COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON

**CONSERVANCY OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

EVERGLADES LAW CENTER

EVERGLADES TRUST

**FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

**SANIBEL CAPTIVA CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

THE SIERRA CLUB

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
Plaza Level 05
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: HB 1219, RE: Oil and Gas Drilling

Dear Governor Crist:

The undersigned environmental organizations wish to thank you for your longstanding commitment to protecting the natural resources which make Florida a national treasure. Unfortunately, these are now being threatened by HB 1219, by Rep. Van Zant and as amended by Rep. Dean Cannon, opening Florida's coastline to drilling for oil and gas. We ask you to join your predecessors in opposing drilling in the coastal waters of Florida and protect the clean waters and pristine beaches that make Florida an international tourist destination cherished by people around the world.

Florida's elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, both local and national, have long worked to put in place protections from drilling along Florida's coastline, recognizing the devastating impact that even just one catastrophic event could have on the state's economy and natural resources. While HB 1219 cloaks itself in bonding for the Florida Forever program, we know that you will not be distracted by this attempt to "green wash" an otherwise environmentally destructive proposal.

As an alternative, we ask that you continue your support for the development of clean renewable sources of energy within Florida. Clean water and beaches, with power supplied by environmentally friendly sources of energy, will ensure that Florida continues to be a destination for the rest of the world. We hope that you will ensure this last-second, shortsighted proposal by the Florida House of Representatives does not move forward and that Florida's natural resources continue to be the jewel of this great state.

The Honorable Charlie Crist
April 23, 2009
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Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

David Anderson
Executive Director
Audubon of Florida

Carol Newcomb-Jones
Chair, Conservation Committee.
Audubon of Southwest Florida

Kathleen Aterno
Managing and Florida Director
Clean Water Fund

Alan Keller
President
Collier County Audubon Society

Jennifer Hecker
Natural Resource Policy Manager
Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Laurie Macdonald
Florida Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Kirk Fordham
Chief Executive Officer
Everglades Foundation

Richard Grosso
Executive Director/General Counsel
Everglades Law Center

E. Thom Rumberger
Chairman
Everglades Trust

Mark D. Perry
Executive Director
Florida Oceanographic Society

Manley Fuller
President
Florida Wildlife Federation

John Adornato
Director, Sun Coast Region
National Parks Conservation Association

David J. White, Esq.
Director, S.E. Atlantic & Gulf of Mexico Region
Ocean Conservancy

Rae Ann Wessel
Natural Resource Policy Director
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Frank Jackalone
Florida Staff Director
The Sierra Club

Laura Reynolds
Executive Director
Tropical Audubon Society

Debra Harrison
Director, South Florida Program
World Wildlife Fund