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**WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT PROTECTION**

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**Support** funding for conservation or preservation of crucial wildlife habitat in perpetuity through fee-simple acquisition of important conservation lands or less than fee-simple acquisition of conservation easements.

**Support** acquisition of high quality wildlife habitat and conservation of agricultural lands and corridors that would connect or buffer existing protected lands and priority functional habitats especially for wide ranging species like Florida panthers and black bear. Fully fund Florida Forever! **Support** completion of the Florida Trail.

**Oppose** Off Road Vehicles trails expansion in conservation lands. **Support** user fees for established ORV areas sufficient to remediate environmental damage they cause.

**Oppose** expansion of new or existing transportation corridors or new interchanges that will facilitate development on wild or agricultural lands or bisect regionally significant wildlife corridors.

**Support** development of improved standards for siting utility generation and transmission facilities to protect natural and conservation lands.

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**CLEAN ENERGY**

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**Goal:** Florida grows its economy by supporting clean energy market and jobs development, protecting public health and our environment by supporting a complete transition from fossil fuels to generate electricity by 2050.

**Rationale:** It is imperative to reduce carbon dioxide pollution and to mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, including impacts on human health, habitat, and natural resources, as well as to reduce risks to our financial and national security. The impact of sea level rise is an existential threat to all communities of our state. Pollution from power plants is the largest single source of carbon dioxide emissions. The cost of generating electricity from clean, renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, is dropping rapidly.

Florida's "direction-setting document," the state comprehensive plan (§187.101 F.S.), sets out energy goals and policies that *all* aim to advance clean energy upgrades:

"Florida shall reduce its energy requirements through enhanced conservation and efficiency measures in all end-use sectors and shall reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by promoting an increased use of renewable energy resources and low-carbon-emitting electric power plants." (§187.201 F.S.)

**Support** implementation of existing policy directives on clean energy. Continue to reduce per-capita energy consumption; Encourage and provide incentives for consumer and producer energy conservation; Establish enhanced energy performance standards for buildings and energy consuming equipment; Reduce the need for new power plants by improving end-use efficiency, reducing peak demand and using cost-effective upgrades; Promote development and application of solar energy technologies and passive solar design techniques; Provide information on energy conservation and foster behavior change through active social media campaigns; Promote the use and development of renewable energy resources and low-carbon-emitting electric power plants.

**Support** government-led programs, public-private partnerships and economic/tax incentives advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency to replace power systems that rely on fossil and prevent the need for building nuclear power plants, with an intermediate goal of 25% renewable energy by 2030.

**Support** tax exemption incentive programs for commercial investors, to foster clean energy projects.

**Support** decoupling power company rates and profits, along with the restoration of competition into Florida's utility regulation, by including development of distributed energy opportunities, clean energy jobs and utility innovation to better serve consumers—both citizen and business interests.

**Support** expediting Florida's transition from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy that utilizes new technology and creates new jobs.

**Support** the right of third parties to own and finance small-scale solar power systems and **Support** increased utility scale solar energy.

**Oppose** fracking, acid fracturing, and acid matrix stimulation for natural gas and oil in Florida **and** new extraction of fossil fuels in Florida.

**Support** identifying appropriate locations for development of wind power projects that will generate clean energy and not harm wildlife.

**Support** policies to enable a transition from centralized power to distributed power systems in which electric utilities manage and maximize the efficiency and reliability of the distribution of power on the grid. Right-size power generation investment across the state, to provide long-term least-cost electricity for Florida.

**Oppose** development of new nuclear reactors for electrical power in Florida. Existing reactors should complete their useful economic lifespan, but should not be allowed to expand. Costs associated with the development or enhancement of nuclear power are investments that should be borne by stockholders, not customers. We oppose advance nuclear construction cost recovery, before generation is operational.

**Oppose** energy production that involves significant consumption of fresh water.

**Oppose** use of state or native forests for biomass production and **oppose** the conversion of those forests to non-native species for biomass production.

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### **MASS TRANSIT AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

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**Support** existing mass transit and legislation promoting alternatives to automobile use. Mass transit infrastructure should be co-located in existing transportation corridors to minimize impacts on natural lands, air, water, and wildlife. Transportation planners (MPOs & cities/counties) should be directed by state policy and funding to foster urban density, lead transit-oriented development, and reduce our dependence on automobiles.

**Support** incentives for electric public transit buses and associated infrastructure.

**Support** allocation of state transportation funds towards the state's share of funding for mass transit projects, including construction of lanes dedicated to rapid bus transit and right of way acquisition and construction of inter-regional light rail systems.

**Support** requiring the inclusion of state transportation funds for the construction of bicycle barrier lanes that provide a physical barrier between bicycles and passenger vehicles in high-risk areas.

**Support** the improvement of pedestrian safety with state support for such necessary improvements as municipal and county redesign of intersections and the creation of additional crosswalks on hazardous public roads.

**Support** and expand policies that incentivize the deployment of electric vehicles through parking policies, charging station and associated infrastructure incentives for local government, labeling and price-posting requirements, deregulation of electric vehicle charging services by a non-utility, and guaranteeing EV owners ability to responsibly install and use charging equipment, HOA and condo rules notwithstanding.

**Support** providing tax exemptions and rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

**Support** defining electricity as an alternative fuel and **Oppose** subordinating it to other fuels, particularly natural gas and other fossil fuels, in statute or rule.

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### **WASTE MINIMIZATION / RECYCLING**

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**Support** all lifecycle-cost-effective recycling to achieve 75% waste reduction. Mandate recycling and ban biodegradables from landfills. Develop markets for recycled materials and promote products made from them. *Real recycling* saves energy and conserves natural resources.

**Support** anaerobic digestion of biodegradables to harvest methane for energy generation and use residual materials for soil amendments.

**Support** beverage container deposit; a cost or ban on single-use plastic bags, disposable foam cups and plates, and containers; and take-back programs for wastes with no recycling market due to hazardous, biological, or chemically or physically-bound constituent materials that would be uneconomical (or illegal) to separate for reuse or remanufacture.

**Support** appropriate regulation of littering, including disposal of cigarette waste on Florida's beaches, to protect environmental resources.

**Oppose** counting the incineration of municipal solid waste to retrieve its chemical energy towards the 75% goal, because it squanders the energy used to obtain, process, package, and transport virgin materials to market. Non-renewable components of municipal solid waste such as petroleum-based plastics should not be defined as renewable fuels.

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### DEMOCRACY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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**Amendment One** - Faithfully implement the intent of the voters to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands.

**Support** unfettered citizen access to voter registration and the polls. **Support** Campaign finance reform. **Ensure** citizens' right to freely engage in the ballot initiative process without undue obstacles.

**Support** public notice, public access, and public participation in permitting, Dept. of Administrative Hearings, and civil proceedings.

**Oppose** unbalancing the procedural and legal playing field by such means as shifting the burden of proof from agencies to citizens, narrowing standing, reducing notice, adopting presumptions of compliance or changing standards of proof to disadvantage citizens seeking to defend their quality of life.

**Support** responsible funding for state agencies' environmental missions. **Oppose** restrictions on citizen fact-finding and investigation.

**Support** protecting professional agency staff from undue influence in the performance of their duties.

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### GROWTH MANAGEMENT

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**Support** the establishment of a formal open process for inter-departmental planning housed in the Governor's office to coordinate agency input (DEP, FWC, FDOT, DEO, e.g.) with that of applicable regional planning councils and water management districts; and to review and develop recommendations for an ACSC-like process for developments affecting "significant state resources."

**Support** directing DEP, FWC, DOS (Historical Resources) to provide DEO with a comprehensive list of significant state resources the agencies will submit comments on whenever those resources will be affected by comprehensive plan amendments, sector plans, or developments of regional impact (DRIs).

**Support** a requirement that all new transportation corridor proposals be justified in terms of raw numbers, alignments, and a cost benefit analysis that includes: opportunity costs associated with developing the proposed corridor, increasing fuel costs, and a comparison with investment in upgrading or modifying existing facilities. Plans predicated on a 50-year time frame should include allowances for increased use of technologies that reduce the need for the physical transfer of goods and services (e.g. tele-everything, 3D printing, etc.).

**Support** placement of urban utility power transmission infrastructure underground in already impacted corridors, in the midst of presently developed areas, to improve resiliency to storms risks, reduce habitat intrusion and avoid unnecessary and costly urban sprawl.

**Support** infill and redevelopment to take advantage of existing infrastructure, services, and facilities.

#### Home Rule for Municipalities & Counties

**Support** protection of local government home rule for municipalities & counties. **Oppose** state preemption of local rules and ordinances more restrictive than state provisions. **Support** local referenda requirements, new or in-place.

**Support** the ability of local governments to manage growth and determine land use according to comprehensive plans that enact or enforce stricter land use restrictions than the state's without preemption.

#### Regional Transfer of Water

**Oppose** the transfer of underground and surface water from less populated parts of the state to provide water for development in highly populated areas. **Support** continuing "local-sources-first" water conservation and sustainable limits on water use.

Minimum Flows and Levels

**Support** expeditious establishment and enforcement of standards that are genuinely protective of the water resource for minimum flows and levels throughout the state. **Support** the protection of non-consumptive uses affecting all water bodies on water management district priority lists.

**Support** basing WMD Consumptive Use Permitting on water conservation, protection and restoration, and set CUP rules accordingly. Water use should be based on the determination of a safe yield that restores water systems to flows and levels above those significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.

**Oppose** setting minimum flows that would further reduce or degrade freshwater systems. Water management districts must establish Resource Limited Areas and/or Water Use Caution Areas as appropriate to create recovery strategies for springsheds and rivers that are degraded below flows and levels significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.

Water Management District Executive Director delegated authority

**Support** reversing the Executive Director delegation and require Water Management District governing boards to hold public hearings on applications for Part II and Part IV permits to allow the public to relay concerns about the allocation of natural resources in a timely way.

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**WETLANDS AND EVERGLADES PROTECTION**

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Wetland Regulation and Permitting

**Support** meaningful permitting requirements and procedures that protect natural resources and ensure their use is in the public interest. **Oppose** legislation diminishing the rights or standing of citizens and/or local governments acting to protect environmental resources and quality of life. **Oppose** self and professional certification without oversight, enforcement, and imposition of significant sanctions for wrongful certification.

**Oppose** changing the definition of the ordinary high water mark, which could trigger the loss of tens of thousands of acres of state-owned sovereign submerged lands at the edge of rivers, lakes and streams, transferring them to the ownership of adjacent riparian private interests.

**Oppose** delegation of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetlands destruction permitting under Section 404 to the state of Florida.

Near and Off Shore Drilling for Oil/Natural Gas

**Oppose** near-shore exploration and development and elimination of moratoria prohibiting off shore drilling.

Springs Restoration

**Support** comprehensive legislation and funding to restore Florida's endangered springs.

Everglades Restoration

**Support** full funding for Everglades restoration, to implement the approved water quality plans and to advance vital construction projects in accord with the comprehensive plan.

**Support** an additional 5.5 miles of bridging for the Tamiami Trail to restore Everglades water flow.

**Oppose** expansion of oil and gas drilling in the Everglades, Big Cypress, and other public and private lands in the Greater Everglades watershed that could impact water quality and threaten endangered species, such as the Florida Panther.

**Support** increasing fresh water table height in SE coastal Everglades, stopping the diversion of freshwater from the L31 canal to Turkey Point cooling canals, and delivering more clean water to Florida Bay.

**Support** further acquisition of US Sugar lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and continue to support state Everglades conservation programs in partnership with the federal government.

Environmental Trust Funds

**Oppose** sweeps, diversions, or reallocations of Environmental Trust Funds to any other purpose.

**Oppose** the sale of conservation lands.

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**WATER QUALITY PROTECTION**

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Point and Non-Point Source Nutrient Pollution

**Support** the reduction of point and non-point source nutrient pollution that leads to harmful algal outbreaks in fresh and coastal waters that threaten waterfront economies and public health.

**Support** strengthening nutrient pollution control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Fertilizer

**Oppose** preemption of local control of fertilizer management. **Support** a statewide ban on phosphorous in lawn fertilizer (the “P” in the N-P-K code on the bag).

Springs

**Support** strengthening regulatory authority to prevent and reduce nutrient pollution in the watersheds of Florida’s 33 first-magnitude springs, to protect these famous attractions to Florida and to protect our principal water supply.

Numeric Nutrient Criteria

**Support** the development, implementation, and enforcement of adequately protective numeric nutrient criteria for Florida’s inland and coastal waters that will prevent toxic algae outbreaks. Enforceable standards protect public health, the tourist economy, and property rights.