

Committee of the Islands  
Keeping Sanibel Special  
Since 1975



**Florida Residents, Property Owners & Visitors**

***Our water and way of life  
are at risk....***

***Take action now -- before May 1st!***

Sanibel Friends: The state of Florida has until October of this year to exercise an option to purchase 26,000 acres of U.S. Sugar land south of Lake Okeechobee - -lands critical to Everglades restoration and the preservation of our estuary.

But funding must be approved by the state legislature before its current session ends on May 1st. Please read the message below from Mary Bailey at the Everglades Trust -- [watch the video she refers to](#) -- and take action now to protect our water and our way of life. We have only until May 1st to persuade the legislature to approve the funding.

Use the Florida civic leader's email addresses listed below to ask them to authorize the purchase of the EAA Reservoir Land as provided by Amendment 1, before May 1, 2015.

David Bath, President, **COTI**

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## ***Urgent Message from The Everglades Trust***

Did you know that 1 in 3 Floridians get their drinking water from the Everglades?

We have an opportunity to protect our drinking water for future generations, but our elected leaders must act now. On May 1st, the legislative session will end. If the legislature does not allow the use of voter approved funds to buy land to be used to store and clean drinking water south of Lake Okeechobee, we could lose our last chance to save Florida's drinking water and the Everglades.

[Watch this informative video to better understand why we can't let the legislature fail to act by May 1st.](#)

Last November, 75% of us voted to change the constitution and approve funds to buy land to protect the Everglades and our drinking water. Now the legislature needs to act before it's too late. We can't let this opportunity to save our drinking water pass us by.

*Please send your message to each of these Florida leaders:*

Governor Rick Scott: [Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.gov](mailto:Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.gov)

House Speaker Steve Crisafulli: [Steve.Crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Steve.Crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov)

Senate President Andy Gardiner: [Gardiner.Andy.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Gardiner.Andy.web@flsenate.gov)

Senator Benacquisto: [Benacquisto.Lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Benacquisto.Lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov)

Senator Richter: [Richter.Garrett.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Richter.Garrett.web@flsenate.gov)

Representative Caldwell: [Matt.Caldwell@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Matt.Caldwell@myfloridahouse.gov)

Representative Fitzenhagen [Heather.Fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Heather.Fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov)

Representative Dane Eagle: [Dane.Eagle@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Dane.Eagle@myfloridahouse.gov)

Representative Ray Rodriguez: [Ray.Rodriguez@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ray.Rodriguez@myfloridahouse.gov)

Sincerely,

Mary Barley

The Everglades Trust

[www.evergladetrust.org](http://www.evergladetrust.org)

***PS: Please pass this urgent message to your friends!***

**Please JOIN COTI** to support our mission.

**Help Keep Sanibel Special for future generations!**

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OR RENEW](#)**

*COTI was founded in 1975 by those who helped Sanibel incorporate as an independent, self-governing city within Lee County. Guided by the mission of those founders, we seek to ensure the continuity of good local government, to protect the environment, and to preserve the sanctuary character of our barrier island community.*



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