

The Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition

Caribbean Conservation Corporation & Sea Turtle Survival League •
Reef Relief • Gulf Restoration Network • Natural Resources Defense Council •
The Surfrider Foundation • The Ocean Conservancy • Environmental Defense Fund

March 31, 2008

Representative Stan Mayfield
Florida House of Representatives
402 South Monroe Street, 222 Capitol Offices
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: Inlet Management (HB1427)

Representative Mayfield,

The Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition would like to commend you for sponsoring House Bill 1427, Inlet Management legislation, to help restore the natural flow of sand along Florida's coasts. As water flow is the cornerstone of Everglades restoration, so is the return of natural sand flow to our beaches; your bill is landmark legislation for the preservation of our shores.

Almost half of Florida's sandy shoreline is designated "critically" eroded and the Department of Environmental Protection has identified navigational inlets as a leading contributor of coastal erosion. It is clearly in the long term interest of Florida and its beach management program to place a high priority on efficient inlet sand by-pass. We are pleased to see this sustainable policy being proposed for the future of Florida's coasts.

Florida depends heavily upon a healthy coastal ecosystem. It is home to many of Florida's signature wildlife, the backbone of our tourist based economy and our primary defense from storms and sea-level rise. Parks along our shores are the most visited and popular in the State park system; many contend that Florida's beach and dune system is one of the state's most valuable natural resources.

Your legislation will greatly assist in the "natural re-nourishment" of the beaches that Floridians cherish. Thank you for your leadership on this beach protection legislation.

Sincerely,

Gary Appelson – Caribbean Conservation Corp.
Sarah Chasis, J.D. – Natural Resources Defense Council
Ericka D'Avanzo – Surfrider Foundation
Jerry Karnas – Environmental Defense
Paul Johnson – Reef Relief
Joe Murphy - Gulf Restoration Network
David White, J.D. – The Ocean Conservancy

cc: Charlie Crist, Governor, State of Florida
Marco Rubio, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
Michael Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Ken Haddad, Executive Director, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Commission
Distribution

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