



Friends *of the* Everglades

SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST
~~“ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ”~~
GIVE TO THE
EVERGLADES DEFENSE FUND

“Every Florida governor, every Florida senator, and countless local and national political figures, including presidents, have publicly pledged their unequivocal support for the restoration, conservation, and protection of the Everglades....This Order does nothing more than uphold the basic requirements of legislation designed to fulfill those promises.”

US District Judge Judge Kathleen Williams, Omnibus Order

Friends of the Everglades’ landmark lawsuit to stop the “Alligator Alcatraz” detention facility scored a major victory on August 21 when Federal District Judge Kathleen Williams banned the arrival of new detainees and ordered a winding down of operations within 60 days.

This was a major milestone. It also sets us on a long battle to defend the judge’s order —

requiring far more resources for our grassroots organization.

**THE CASE COULD GO ALL THE WAY
TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT**

Our adversaries have appealed or ignored court mandates at each turn, and our counsel thinks the case could go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Friends *of the* Everglades

The threat to this national ecological treasure, the world’s only Everglades, is severe and unquestionable. Without any environmental review or public input, state and federal authorities, in clear violation of the bedrock National Environmental Policy Act have:

- Covered 800,000 square feet of sensitive Everglades with pavement since June.
- Reduced the habitat of the highly endangered Florida panther by 2,000 acres, with widespread light pollution visible more than 15 miles away, increased traffic, construction and 24-7 generator noise.
- Repurposed a 10,000 foot airport runway, hauled in tens of thousands of gallons of jet fuel and trucked out sewage in an area vital to the drinking water of 8 million Floridians.
- Infringed on the sacred ancestral lands of the Miccosukee Tribe (who have joined us in the lawsuit).

In order to fund the continued legal battle, we have launched the Everglades Defense Fund with the goal of raising \$2 million in the next 12 months. We are seeking five-, six- and seven-figure gifts or grants from major philanthropists who understand the urgent and time-sensitive nature of our cause. We have joined forces with the Center for Biological Diversity and Earthjustice on the case – while other environmental organizations are standing by the sidelines. We have raised more than \$300,000 to date.

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The groundswell of public support has been extraordinary. We have more than doubled our number of donors in a one-month period from 2,000 to 4,500. On the advocacy front, at our urging, more than 40,000 individuals have sent messages to Gov. DeSantis and Attorney General Uthmeier to halt operations at the makeshift prison. Taxpayers are alarmed at the risk of reversing billions of dollars in restoration investments in the Everglades made over recent decades.

“What I’m most worried about,” Marjory said at the time, “is man’s ignorance of the importance of the Everglades.”



Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Fifty-six years ago, Marjory Stoneman Douglas founded Friends of the Everglades to stop a similar scheme — a commercial jetport on this very site. “What I’m most worried about,” Marjory said at the time, “is man’s ignorance of the importance of the Everglades.” We met the moment then, and we are meeting it now.

PLEASE JOIN THE CAUSE TO REVERSE THIS ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE.
For more information on how to support us, contact:

EVE SAMPLES
Executive Director
eve.samples@everglades.org
(305) 669-0858 ext 106

To give to the Everglades Defense Fund, visit everglades.org/everglades-defense-fund.