



Legendary
KEY LARGO
Chamber of Commerce

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Resolution

WHEREAS Florida Bay and Everglades National Park are a jewel in the crown of Key Largo, and

WHEREAS many recreational fishermen – residents and visitors alike – enjoy the waters of Florida Bay and Everglades National Park, and

WHEREAS backcountry guides rely financially on the business brought to them by fishermen who want to experience the pleasure of fishing in park waters, and

WHEREAS much of the commerce in Key Largo depends not just on those who fish in park waters but also on the millions of people from around the world who come to visit Everglades National Park and stay in Key Largo, dine in our restaurants, shop in our retail stores and enjoy the many activities (land- and water-based) available on our island, and

WHEREAS the facilities at Flamingo were old and neglected for years before Hurricane Wilma demolished the buildings nearly two years ago, with still no repairs or upgrades in sight, and has severely curtailed the visitor experience to the park, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce, with more than 350 members who employ more than 3,800 workers, understands that the Everglades National Park must be managed for the enjoyment of all, as well as for the protection of its unique assets, and

WHEREAS proposed Alternatives A-D range from a “do nothing” approach to maximum regulation that would severely limit access to and enjoyment of the park by visitors and residents, and

WHEREAS none of these alternatives contain information regarding the economic impact of said proposals, and

WHEREAS the leaders and members of the Don Hawley Foundation, Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association, Bonefish & Tarpon Unlimited, Reef Rod and Gun Club, Islamorada Fishing Club and Islamorada Fishing and Conservation Trust have years of in-depth, first-hand experience with the waters of Everglades National Park and fully understand the importance of protecting and preserving this exceptional park, and

WHEREAS these groups and individuals have proposed a plan called Alternative E that addresses the key issues of education, licensure, enforcement and appropriate

marking of waterways and shallow banks of the waters of Everglades National Park that should solve much of the problems associated with damage to the fragile resource,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports proposed Alternative E, as outlined by backcountry fishermen, guides and conservationists who know the area the best, with the additional request that the facilities at Flamingo be upgraded and brought back on line as soon as possible,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that economic impact studies be done on all the proposed Alternatives earlier, rather than later, in the management planning process so as to be able to quantify the economic effects such alternatives will have on surrounding communities and the park itself.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, at a regular meeting of the board, held on the 27th day of June 2007.

Mission statement of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce
To develop and actively market a vibrant political, social and economic business environment by using the individual and collective power of its membership.