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City of Moore Haven

MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471



December 12, 2008

South Florida Water Management District
Governing Board Members
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

RE: USSC Sale

Dear Governing Board Members:

The Moore Haven City Councilmen: Bret Whidden, Mayor; Dave McGee, Vice Mayor; John Ahern, Finance Officer; Michael Brantley, Councilman; and Harry Ogletree, Councilman strongly urge the Governing Board Members to vote against the sale or delay the purchase of US Sugar property until the many unanswered questions and issues are addressed. It is very unfair for the Governor to ask you to make a decision of this magnitude, which will affect so many lives, in such a short period of time. Please take the additional needed time to look at your staff reports from the December 10th meeting held in Clewiston which shows the concerns of the employees, citizens and the local Government.

The US Sugar Mill and Refinery will close without the land to grow sugar cane, devastating our communities. The City of Moore Haven has first hand experience of the effects it will have to the communities. Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative Mill closed in 1979 and the economy of Glades County and The City of Moore Haven have not yet recovered. The closing of that industry thirty years ago was devastating to our County and City; our community will not survive another Sugar Mill closing.

Our workforce over the years has been replaced with retirees, which in turn has reduced our school system student population. If this continues the Glades County School system will have to close their doors, causing even more job losses.

The City of Moore Haven supports the Everglades Restoration Project; but not at the expense of our very existence.

This is no "deal" for the citizens of South Florida; it will be very detrimental to all the communities involved. Once again we strongly urge you to delay or vote against the "deal"

Sincerely,

City of Moore Haven