



# Florida Conservation Coalition Applauds Senate's Work on Florida Forever

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**Contact:** Commissioner Lee Constantine, (407) 331 - 9675

**Tallahassee, FL** – On January 31, 2018, the Florida Senate passed SB 370, by Senator Rob Bradley (R-Fleming Island), which dedicates \$100 million annually to the Florida Forever Trust Fund and prohibits funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund from being used on certain administrative expenses.

This important legislative victory follows last week's announcement by Senator Lauren Book (D-Plantation) that the Senate's 2018 budget proposal includes \$154 million for Florida Forever.

Commissioner Constantine, Vice-Chair of the Florida Conservation Coalition, applauded the Senate's important work saying:

"Dedicating meaningful funding annually to the Florida Forever program and proposing a \$154 million allocation for the program this year shows the Florida Senate is committed to protecting Florida's natural heritage, making the land conservation investments necessary to ensure future generations will have clean water, and honoring the will of Florida voters."

In 2014, Floridians overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment with the primary purpose of providing significant funding for Florida's premiere land acquisition programs. The funds provided by this amendment, in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, are projected to grow to well over a \$1 billion in the out years of the Amendment. As the Legislature allocates these funds to different conservation programs, the Florida Conservation Coalition has continued to urge it to honor the intent of voters by allocating the largest percentage to land acquisition programs including the Florida Forever Priority List, Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and Florida Communities Trust program. The Senate's

work on Florida Forever this year is a positive step toward meeting the conservation community's goals, realizing the wishes of millions of Florida voters, and protecting Florida's most essential lands before it's too late. Current trends indicate 1/3 of Florida's lands will be developed by the year 2070.

We thank Senator Bradley and Senator Book for their dedication to preserving Florida's natural and working landscapes.

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#### About the Florida Conservation Coalition

The Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC) is a coalition of over 80 conservation-minded organizations and over two thousand individuals devoted to protecting and conserving Florida's land, fish and wildlife, and water resources. The Coalition was founded in 2011, and is led by former Florida Governor and US Senator Bob Graham (Founder and Chairman) along with former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Nathaniel Reed (Vice-Chair) and former Florida Senator, Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine (Vice-Chair). For more information, visit [www.wearefcc.org](http://www.wearefcc.org).