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facsimile transmittal

To: Gainesville City Commission **From:** Kathy Cantwell

Fax: 334-2036 **Date:** December 10, 2001

Phone: _____ **Pages:** 1 of 2

Re: Wetland policy **CC:** _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

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SIERRA CLUB



Suwannee • St. Johns Group _____

1701 SW 117 St.
Gainesville, Fl. 32607
December 10, 2001

Dear Gainesville City Commission,

The Suwannee-St. Johns Sierra Club advocates for preservation of wetlands as the highest priority and urges the city to do likewise in the writing of its comprehensive plan. This being done, it must be followed through in the writing of its' LDR's subsequent to the final approval of its' comp plan.. The Sierra Club does not believe mitigation should be substituted for the preservation of wetlands. When protection of wetlands is precluded by federal or state law, mitigation at the highest ratio possible must be demanded, the mitigation should be done as close to the wetland lost as possible, in the same basin or sub-basin to continue the function of the lost wetland, and all mitigation should be monitored as long as possible to ensure the continued viability of that wetland.. All mitigation should be completed or at least bonded before completion of the proposed project.

We agree with the city changing its' 'no net loss" policy to one of preservation. We are concerned that its' "public interest " clause may be misinterpreted. We feel it should only be used when federal and state law precludes preservation as stated above.

Thank you for your work in protecting our city and especially its' wetlands.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Cantwell, MD
Chair, SSJ Sierra Club

