

May 4, 2022

Dear Everglades Foundation Officers, Board Members, and Trustees:

We are writing this letter under an extraordinary circumstance: the Everglades Foundation litigation against its former lead scientist, Dr. Thomas Van Lent.

We highly value both the Foundation's dedication to and investment in Everglades restoration objectives and the collegial relationships we have shared over many years. Dr. Van Lent was a valuable asset for the Foundation and a trusted ambassador to the Everglades restoration community and beyond; over many years, he earned our admiration and respect.

Whatever the particulars in the dispute, the Foundation's action here does not serve the Everglades restoration community's collective purpose. Antagonists are already using this controversy to cast doubt and aspersions on our work. We are alarmed that the litigation is providing our adversaries with an especially damaging narrative.

Furthermore, this litigation appears contrary to the mission of the Foundation to "protect and restore America's Everglades through science, advocacy and education."

We sincerely hope that the lawsuit will be dropped, and a settlement with Dr. Van Lent can be reached as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Terrence "Rock" Salt
Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army

Stuart Pimm, Ph.D.
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