

Statement of Mary Barley, Founder The Everglades Trust and Hero of the Planet (Time Magazine), on Big Sugar's Negative Impact in Florida Everglades

Islamorada, FL (November 28, 2011)- The federal sugar price support subsidy has been destroying the Everglades for decades, and it taxes U.S. consumers in the form of higher food prices estimated to be about \$4 billion a year. This sugar food tax must be eliminated.

The over 400,000 acres of sugarcane in Florida sends many tons of pollutants into America's Everglades and steals its water, making American taxpayers pay billions of dollars to clean up Big Sugar's pollution.

The fact is that the sugar program has made sugar growers in America's Everglades Agricultural Area millionaires and billionaires. Florida sugar barons fill the campaign chests of politicians, who, in turn, strongly support this secret tax on American taxpayers and consumers. This is a reprehensible vicious cycle that takes taxpayer money and gives it to the super rich.

The Super Committee's failure now leaves the sugar food tax open for change. Congress can eliminate this disastrous sugar food tax on us all.

The Everglades Trust is a member of the Coalition for Sugar Reform.

About the Coalition for Sugar Reform

The Coalition for Sugar Reform (www.SugarReform.org) represents consumer, trade, and commerce groups, manufacturing associations, and food and beverage companies that use sugar – including confectioners, bakers, cereal manufacturers, beverage makers and dairy companies – as well as the trade associations for these industries.

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