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July 30, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Audubon of Florida is writing to express our support for an important initiative in Florida that would advance the Administration's goals of helping Americans through this economic downturn and stimulating investment in a clean energy economy.

A major utility company that serves customers in Florida, Florida Power & Light Company, is seeking \$200 million from the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program to accelerate deployment of a multi-year smart grid program. This would fund about one-third of an approximately \$600 million program that would provide smart meters to residents of Miami-Dade and Broward counties and enhance the distribution and transmission system that serves a large part of the state.

Mr. Secretary, this program will achieve three important goals. It would help Floridians save money on their energy bills, which is especially important at a time when many are struggling to make ends meet. It would help Floridians reduce their carbon footprint and do their part to address the issue of climate change, which is a particular threat to Florida with its thousands of miles of coastline. And it would provide Floridians with more reliable electrical service, which is critical in a state that is so vulnerable to power disruptions from severe storms.

With support from the Department of Energy, this project could move forward immediately. Planning is already underway, and the first smart meters could be installed later this year. With federal support, the first phase of this project could be completed by the end of 2011, bringing smart meters to two million Floridians.

This shovel-ready project could serve as a model for the nation. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Draper".

Eric Draper,
Deputy Director