

Presentation to the Collier County State Legislative Delegation
Meeting and Public Hearings November 23, 2010

Distinguished Elected Officials:

Good afternoon. My name is Lydia Galton. I am proud to serve as the President of the League of Women Voters of Collier County.

As you know the League is nonpartisan. We educate, advocate, and activate to safeguard democracy--a large goal, but we tackle one difficult issue at a time.

One such issues is off-shore drilling-- which we strongly oppose. Visitors flock to Collier County because it is "clean, classy, and calm" and because our beaches are pristine. We look to you to safeguard our tourist industry and our fishing industry from oil spills caused by off shore drilling.

We also look to you for innovative energy solutions such as tax incentives for the use and manufacture of solar power. We are, after all, "The Sunshine State." The state could create low interest, long term solar power "installation loans" for homes and commercial buildings. The loans could be repaid over time and passed on with the deeds to subsequent owners until they are retired. State-owned buildings could be retrofitted to make them more energy efficient and cheaper to operate. Street lamps could be solar-powered, like the ones on Alligator Alley.

These are only a few ideas but renewable energy must be central to an energy policy. Renewables can help meet critical goals for fuel diversity, economic development, and energy security. We urge you to create and pass an Energy Policy for Florida in this year's session.

Thank you for your time.