



# Everglades Coalition

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

On behalf of the 63 members of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America's Everglades, we greatly appreciate the Energy and Water Subcommittee's long-time support for Everglades restoration. Your ongoing leadership has kept restoration moving forward, and we hope to continue building on the many successes with more on the horizon.

To build on this progress in FY 2019, we respectfully request the full capacity of the Army Corps for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration, which we believe to be approximately **\$132 million for construction and \$10 million for operation and maintenance**. This amount will allow critical water infrastructure projects to move forward that will restore federal lands in South Florida, reduce polluted water discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal waterways, and help ensure clean drinking water for 8 million Floridians.

Specifically this funding will advance key Everglades restoration projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), such as Picayune Strand Restoration, Indian River Lagoon-South, Broward County Water Preserve Area, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and CERP Design. It also would help advance the Central Everglades Project, specifically the Army Corps' completion of the Validation Report, which we hope will be expedited so that work can begin on the Project Participation Agreement as soon as possible. In addition to CERP projects, there are two non-CERP projects that are very close to completion that would receive funding – Kissimmee River Restoration and C-111 South Dade.

Unfortunately, the President's FY 2019 budget proposal falls short of this funding level by proposing only \$67.5 million for construction and no funding for operation and maintenance. For the world's largest restoration effort to be successful, the federal agencies involved must have the funding needed to accomplish their goals. If this budget becomes reality, we believe that vital parts of Everglades restoration will not happen.

***Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades***

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples  
Bullsugar Alliance  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/  
Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Everglades Trust  
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society  
International Dark-Sky Association,  
FL Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North Carolina Outward Bound School  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
The Institute for Regional Conservation  
The National Wildlife Federation  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Tropical Audubon Society

Now is the time when we need to be investing more to restore the Everglades and reduce polluted water discharges from Lake Okeechobee. We have a national responsibility to preserve America's Everglades for future generations, and the Army Corps plays a lead role fulfilling restoration goals.

We greatly appreciate your Subcommittee's continued support and commitment to Everglades restoration as we move forward with this monumental restoration effort.

Sincerely,



Mark Perry  
State Co-Chair



Michael J. Baldwin  
State Co-Chair

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