



# Everglades Coalition

1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA  
ARTHUR R. MARSHALL FOUNDATION  
AUDUBON FLORIDA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE EVERGLADES  
AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATION / RIVERWATCH  
CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
CLEAN WATER ACTION  
COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
DING DARLING WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
EARTHJUSTICE  
ENVIRONMENT FLORIDA  
EVERGLADES COORDINATING COUNCIL  
EVERGLADES FOUNDATION  
EVERGLADES LAW CENTER  
FLORIDA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE  
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 WILDLIFE REFUGE  
FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES  
HENDRY GLADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FLORIDA DIVISION  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FLORIDA KEYS  
CHAPTER  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE MANGROVE  
CHAPTER  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
LAST STAND  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA  
LOXAHATCHEE RIVER COALITION  
MARTIN COUNTY CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ASSOCIATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL  
REEF RELIEF  
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION  
SAVE IT NOW, GLADES!  
SIERRA CLUB  
SIERRA CLUB BROWARD GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB CALUSA GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL FLORIDA GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER  
SIERRA CLUB LOXAHATCHEE GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB MIAMI GROUP  
SNOOK AND GAMEFISH FOUNDATION  
SOUTH FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT LEAGUE OF  
GREATER MIAMI

April 28, 2014

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the 54 organizations of the Everglades Coalition and our more than 6 million members nationwide, we would like to thank you for your strong support of America's Everglades and your recognition of the significance of one of our nation's most iconic and threatened natural landscapes. However, we are deeply disappointed by the decision of the Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Review Board to postpone their review of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). This is a major step back for Everglades restoration, particularly considering the time and resources invested by federal agencies, the South Florida Water Management District, and countless interested stakeholders, in addition to the strong commitment of your Administration and the state of Florida.

We strongly urge you to ensure that the Civil Works Review Board reconvenes as soon as possible in order to resolve the Army Corps outstanding issues by the end of May, 2014 to allow for the CEPP Chief's Report to be finalized. While the Civil Works Review Board says that they need a couple more months to review CEPP, this delay will reduce any chances for CEPP to be authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that Congress will be considering very soon, which could set this project back seven years if Congress continues their infrequent WRDA schedule.

We also request a meeting with your senior staff and the Council on Environmental Quality following the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force meeting on May 7, 2014 to discuss the delay of CEPP and how we can work together collaboratively and effectively to ensure the project moves forward.

The significance of this project to the restoration of America's Everglades cannot be underestimated. CEPP is vital to reconnecting historic water flows to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, which are in desperate need of fresh water. The project will restore wildlife habitat throughout the ecosystem and will reduce excessive damaging discharges to coastal estuaries, which have devastated our state in recent years. The delay of CEPP could ultimately lead to more suffering for our treasured ecosystems, estuary communities, and local economies.

Again, we thank you for the strong support of your Administration for Everglades restoration, which will protect America's priceless ecosystems, growing economies, and future water supply.

Sincerely,

*Cara Capp*

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CC: The Vice President