



EVERGLADES COALITION

December 17, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Ongoing Leadership and Investment in America's Everglades

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of more than sixty conservation organizations, we deeply appreciate your leadership on protection of land, water, and wildlife across the nation, as well as your focus on a climate resilient future for our country. In line with both of these focuses, we are excited to collaborate with the Biden Administration to continue the important work of restoring America's Everglades.

The Greater Everglades is comprised of the diverse habitats and sweeping watershed that includes over 2.5 million acres of federally protected lands and waters at Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and fourteen National Wildlife Refuges; 2,800 nautical miles of marine habitat at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and environmentally and culturally significant Tribal Lands. The health of significant waterbodies like the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, St. Lucie River, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Bay are intrinsically linked as regions among the Greater Everglades.

The health of each region within the Greater Everglades - and with the connected ecosystem as a whole - is essential to the health of Florida's water supply, economy, public health, climate resilience, and quality of life. The work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Florida to restore the quality and historic flow of the Everglades is vitally important to Florida's environment, economy, and quality of life, and to our national goals for climate resilience. Last year's historic investment of \$350M to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) showed the Biden Administration's strong commitment to bringing key CERP projects across the finish line.

President Biden, we urge you to continue your bold vision for America's Everglades by allocating at least \$1.5B of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and an additional \$725M in the FY23 budget request to implement Everglades restoration.

Your leadership on Everglades restoration comes at a moment of unique opportunity: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stands ready to bring key restoration efforts across the finish line. After decades gathering data, studying the ecosystem, and making plans, it is finally time to see major on-the-ground progress in Florida. A large infusion of funding is needed to keep pace with the significant investment of the State of Florida to ensure that progress continues.

We stand firmly with your vision for a climate resilient future for our nation. Expediting CERP implementation is one of Florida's strongest climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Everglades restoration will help protect our municipal water supplies from saltwater intrusion,

The Everglades Coalition is a 501(c)3 alliance of local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades.

evergladescoalition.org

strengthen our shorelines to protect inland communities from more frequent and intense storms, and help sequester tremendous amounts of carbon through restoration of wetland, mangrove, and seagrass habitat. At the same time, CERP implementation will create tens of thousands of quality jobs for Floridians while providing ecosystem benefits to bolster Florida's important fishing and tourism economies. We urge the Biden Administration to make a significant investment in nature-based projects that will benefit water supply, climate resilience, and the economy, with a continued commitment to meaningful public participation, environmental justice, and equitable investments.

The Everglades Coalition stands ready to assist your Administration in any way possible as we work to achieve our shared goals for America's Everglades. We hope to celebrate record restoration success during your Presidency - and we look forward to welcoming you back to Florida to witness the progress being made to restore America's Everglades.

Sincerely,



Marisa Carrozzo
National Co-Chair
National Parks Conservation Association



Mark Perry
State Co-Chair
Florida Oceanographic Society

