



Everglades Coalition

August 22, 2018

President Donald Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2020 budget, we ask you to include full funding of \$200M to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its vital mission to restore America's Everglades – the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world.

Every dollar invested in Everglades restoration returns at least four dollars to the economy¹. At the same time, constructing these projects creates thousands of jobs while protecting a unique ecosystem that provides drinking water to 8 million people in Florida.

The plan for restoring America's Everglades involves projects included in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and non-CERP projects. Implementation of these projects involves an equal partnership between the State of Florida and the Federal Government. In recent years, the State has prioritized Everglades projects with appropriations that surpass the \$200M per year standard envisioned when Congress authorized CERP in 2000. At the same time, Federal appropriations contributed to the project have fallen well below this standard.

These projects, when implemented, will move badly needed fresh water to Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys. Some of these projects will help to alleviate the periodic devastating polluted discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the fragile St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River estuaries that are currently plaguing coastal communities.

The U.S. Department of the Interior also plays an important role in efforts to restore the Everglades. Therefore, we ask that Interior funding for Everglades restoration be increased to address the problem of invasive exotic plants at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, among other critical needs. The State of Florida has recently agreed to contribute additional funding to stymie the

Measuring the Economic Benefits of America's Everglades Restoration, Mather Economics, 2010. Via online publication here: <https://www.evergladesfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/12/Report-Measuring-Economic-Benefits-Exec-Summary.pdf>

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
Calusa Waterkeeper
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
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
Lake Worth Waterkeeper
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
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 Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
Tropical Audubon Society

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

spread of invasive plants on lands under Federal management. We urge you to ensure that DOI funding levels are sufficient to address this issue.

We commend the great progress on the bridges that are elevating the Tamiami Trail to allow the reconnection of water flow into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Funding for the final stages of this effort need to be in your budget – and could bring this successful project into completion in the near future.

Mr. President, America's Everglades is the lifeblood of South Florida's environment, economy, and lifestyle. We urge you to personally see the wonders of this great national treasure during one of your upcoming trips to Florida.

Sincerely,



Mark Perry
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo
Co-Chair

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