



Everglades Coalition

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
1060 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

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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