EVERGLADES COALITION

April 25, 2023

Speaker of the House, Representative Paul Renner
The Florida Capitol
400 S. Monroe St., Plaza Level
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Sent Via Email to paul.renner@myfloridahouse.gov

RE: HB175/SB192 Everglades Protection Area

Dear Representative Renner:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition, a coalition devoted to restoration, preservation, and protection of the Greater Everglades, we write to ask you to support Senate Bill 192, which would add additional protections in areas critical to Everglades restoration efforts.

We are pleased to see this common-sense bill for Everglades protection has received bipartisan support and sponsorship. These bills align with Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06 increasing state funding to support water quality and Everglades restoration projects. Key provisions in these bills will:

- Add a 2-mile buffer zone around Everglades National Park and other areas requiring rigorous scrutiny of proposed developments.
- The Everglades Protection Area mandates a coordinated review process between state and federal efforts and local planning departments, consonant with the Governor's request for better alignment between local planning departments and Florida agencies.
- This bill buttresses efforts to preserve natural infrastructure that supplies drinking water to millions of residents and mitigates flooding during extreme weather events.

As Florida begins to see tangible results from decades of Everglades restoration efforts we must safeguard ongoing progress and stay the course. The Everglades Protection Area will accelerate ongoing restoration efforts and serve as an insurance policy for taxpayers' substantial investments in existing and future projects. Please support this bill and ensure it advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Mark Perry
Co-Chair

Kelly Cox
Co-Chair