



Everglades Coalition

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
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
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 Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Tropical Audubon Society

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

On behalf of the 61 members of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, we want to thank you for your Subcommittee’s long-time support for Everglades restoration. Your ongoing leadership and support has kept restoration on a strong and steady path, and we hope to continue building on the many successes with more on the horizon.

To build on this progress, we respectfully request the amount of \$65 million for Fiscal Year 2018 for agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). This amount will advance critical water infrastructure projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) that will help restore federal lands in South Florida such as Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, reduce polluted water discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida’s coastal waterways, and help ensure drinking water for 8 million Floridians. This funding also will combat invasive species like the Burmese python and the invasive exotic plant invasion at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, a valuable part of the historic Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

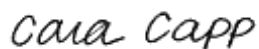
In addition, we request \$1.7 million for the South Florida geographic program under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which helps ensure clean water flows through Everglades National Park and Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge by monitoring and enforcing the pollution limit. Through the South Florida geographic program, EPA works jointly with federal and state agencies to provide extensive information about hydrological conditions and changing water quality levels in Everglades National Park and monitor reef and seagrass health at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. EPA also works with the State of Florida on the Stormwater Treatment Areas, a successful state-federal partnership that has resulted in improved water quality for the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades

The Interior Appropriations bill is critical to Everglades restoration because it is helping 17 federally protected lands – including national parks and wildlife refuges – that are currently in distress from the lack of clean water. We have a national responsibility to preserve this special and unique ecosystem for future generations, and agencies within DOI are taking a lead role to fulfill the goals of CERP and their commitment to manage these resources in the federal interest.

We greatly appreciate your continued support and commitment to Everglades restoration as we move forward with this monumental restoration effort, fulfilling our promise to future generations.

Sincerely,



Cara Capp
National Co-Chair



Michael J. Baldwin
State Co-Chair

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