May 5, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Earth Day in Everglades National Park

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the 57 organizations of the Everglades Coalition committed to the full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, we write to thank you for bringing national attention to one of our country’s greatest environmental treasures on Earth Day – Everglades National Park.

We want to express our great appreciation, as well, to the many federal agency partners who worked to make the Earth Day celebration such a success, including those at the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. It was an honor for members of the Everglades Coalition to be invited, and a pleasure to be able to lend our support to your Administration’s work to combat climate change impacts through restoration.

Our community understands that by restoring the natural southern flow of freshwater through the “River of Grass” into Everglades National Park, we not only help mitigate against sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, but also protect the drinking water supply for eight million Floridians. The health of Florida’s environment, economy, and quality of life hang in the balance.

We look forward to continuing to work with your Administration – as well as our local and state partners and Congressional leaders – toward our shared goals of restoring America’s Everglades now and for generations to come. We hope you enjoyed your visit and will come back soon!

Sincerely,

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair

CC: Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior
Director Jonathan Jarvis, U.S. National Park Service
Superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades National Park
Superintendent Brian Carlstrom, Biscayne National Park
Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin, U.S. National Park Service
Director Christy Goldfuss, White House Council on Environmental Quality