June 27, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Timothy Bishop
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Senator Boxer, Senator Vitter, Representative Shuster, Representative Rahall, Representative Gibbs, and Representative Bishop:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition and its 54 member organizations, we write to thank you for your hard work and leadership that resulted in the passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). We are excited about the four critically important Everglades restoration projects authorized in the bill, and look forward to the positive ecosystem and economic impacts that will benefit our state as a
result of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Area, C-111 Spreader Canal, and C-43 Reservoir projects.

As you know, there is a critical need to clean and redirect freshwater flows south to Everglades National Park and away from coastal estuaries. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is our roadmap to achieving restoration success, but without Congressional authorization and support the projects outlined in CERP cannot be implemented nor their benefits achieved.

We are hopeful that the passage of WRRDA in 2014 with widespread bipartisan support will provide the momentum necessary to reinstate a regular water bill cycle. This would allow important projects in the Everglades and around the nation to move forward in a timely way instead of waiting in the queue while ecosystems continue to decline.

Again, we thank you for your leadership in ensuring passage of WRRDA this year and authorization of four Everglades restoration projects in the bill. The Everglades Coalition appreciates your support and commitment to protecting America’s Everglades, and we look forward to working together as we continue our efforts to restore this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair

CC: Florida Congressional Delegation