May 24, 2011

The Honorable Jack Reed, Chairman  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski,

On behalf of the 53 organizations of the Everglades Coalition and our more than 6 million members nationwide, we write to urge your continued support for restoration of America’s Everglades. We are grateful that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies has helped create the recent wave of momentum and progress for Everglades restoration. As you consider the appropriations bill that will fund the Department of the Interior for FY 2012, we urge you to provide funding at the level of the President’s budget request of $103 million for projects and initiatives related to Everglades restoration. This request will allow progress to continue on projects that are vital to the preservation of this great economic and environmental national treasure.

The Greater Everglades Ecosystem is home to some of America’s greatest treasures including two National Parks, one National Preserve and 13 National Wildlife Refuges. The restoration efforts now well underway will preserve and enhance this natural and economic marvel for generations to come.

As the appropriations process advances, we ask you to remember that as the National Academy of Sciences has found, for the Everglades, to do nothing is in fact to do harm.

We appreciate your continued support and consideration of our request to sustain this monumental restoration effort and fulfill our promise to future generations.

Sincerely,

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cc: Florida Congressional Delegation