January 21, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

On behalf of the 61 members of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, we greatly appreciate your committee’s support for Everglades restoration in fiscal year 2016. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ construction amount of $123.74 million for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and $6.97 million for operations and maintenance will allow important restoration projects to move forward with costly delays, many of which are nearing completion.

This funding will advance key projects, such as C-111 South Dade, Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 Reservoir, Picayune Strand, and Kissimmee River Restoration. It also provides funding to initiate the design for four newly authorized projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) – the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, C-111 Spreader Canal, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and Broward Water Preserve Areas – after waiting years for these projects to be congressionally authorized.

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

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair