



Everglades Coalition

January 6, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the 62 members of the Everglades Coalition, we respectfully request strong funding levels for the federal agencies essential to fulfilling the mission of restoring America's Everglades – the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. As you prepare the budget request for fiscal year 2021, we ask you to include funding of at least \$200M for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to plan, design, and construct key restoration projects, several of which are nearing completion. Additionally, robust federal funding levels are needed for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to fulfill its role in Everglades restoration.

Now is the time to accelerate progress on Everglades restoration projects. Every dollar invested in Everglades restoration returns at least four dollars to the economy. At the same time, constructing these projects creates thousands of jobs while protecting a unique ecosystem that provides drinking water to more than 8 million people in Florida. Only with consistent and sustained funding to the Army Corps will we see progress and completion of much-needed infrastructure projects to restore the water flow from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay and reduce harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

The plan for restoring America's Everglades involves projects included in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and non-CERP projects. Implementation of these projects involves an equal partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government. In recent years, the State of Florida has prioritized Everglades projects with appropriations that surpass the \$200M per year standard envisioned when Congress authorized CERP in 2000. However, at the same time, federal appropriations have been a mere fraction of this investment, which has resulted in delayed implementation and worsening of conditions in South Florida. The amendment to the fiscal year 2020 budget to increase requested levels to \$200M served as an important signal of the Administration's commitment to the Everglades. Strong federal funding levels sustained over years will greatly boost the pace at which restoration can be completed and have a lasting impact on both the future ecological and economic health of Florida.

DOI also plays an important role in restoring the Everglades. Therefore, we ask that Interior funding for Everglades restoration be increased to combat problems of invasive exotic species (both plants and other species like the Burmese python) that threaten the health of the Everglades ecosystem. Increased funding for the federal lands in South Florida will ensure DOI can be a strong partner to help address the costly issue of invasive exotic species.

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

1000 Friends of Florida
Angler Action Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Calusa Waterkeeper
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Bay Forever
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
Lake Worth Waterkeeper
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
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
Peace River Audubon Society
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
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
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
Tropical Audubon Society

America's Everglades is the lifeblood of South Florida's environment, economy, and lifestyle. We look forward to working with your administration to build on the progress made to restore America's Everglades, fulfilling our promise to future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Perry'.

Mark Perry
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marisa Carrozzo'.

Marisa Carrozzo
Co-Chair

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades