January 21, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

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 amount of $64.6 million for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) will allow key projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and others, such as combating invasive species like the Burmese python and numerous plant species, to move forward. Also the $2.5 million for land acquisition for the Everglades Headwaters Conservation Area will allow federal agencies and private landowners to continue conserving one of the last remaining grassland and longleaf pine savanna landscapes in the country.

We are witnessing significant progress in Everglades restoration, and we will continue to build on that momentum in 2016 as we celebrate the National Park Service’s centennial with groundbreakings of the 2.6-mile bridge on Tamiami Trail and the next phase of the C-111 South Dade project, both important restoration projects for restoring natural hydrologic conditions in Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Agencies within DOI are taking a lead role and working together with other federal agencies and the state of Florida to fulfill the goals of CERP and their commitment to manage the resources of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem in the federal interest.

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

Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades

450 N. Park Road # 301, Hollywood FL 33021 | www.evergladescoalition.org | info@evergladescoalition.org