July XX, 2019

The Honorable NAME
U.S. House of Representatives
OFFICE ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP

Re: Leadership for America’s Everglades

Dear NAME:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition – an alliance of 62 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to the health of the Greater Everglades ecosystem – thank you for your leadership and investment in America’s Everglades in FY20.

Our community is deeply appreciative of FY20 funding levels of $200M for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program. This amount is the minimum annual investment needed to restore the Everglades, reduce polluted water discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida’s coastal waterways, and help ensure clean drinking water for over eight million Floridians.

Everglades restoration is a uniquely non-partisan issue. Support for clean water and our environment unites Floridians. We appreciate the significant bipartisan efforts of our national leaders to prioritize restoration funding. All 27 members of Florida’s Congressional Delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives, along with Senators Rubio and Scott, were steadfast in asking President Trump for strong funding to complete projects that will help solve Florida’s ongoing water crisis and restore the Everglades.

We have a national responsibility to protect America’s Everglades for future generations, and the Army Corps plays a lead role in fulfilling restoration goals. $200M in FY20 will fund significant planning and construction efforts to advance restoration this year. However, consistent funding is necessary to achieve long-term success of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program. As you work to develop the FY21 budget, we respectfully ask that the federal government maintain $200M as the minimum investment necessary to protect and restore the Everglades, with the understanding that decades of significant investment will be needed to ensure the long-term health of America’s Everglades and Florida’s water quality and supply.
We greatly appreciate your continued support and commitment to Everglades restoration as we move forward with this monumental restoration effort. Please consider the Everglades Coalition as a partner and resource to you as we continue to achieve our shared goals for the ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Mark Perry  
Co-Chair

Marisa Carrozzo  
Co-Chair