January 22, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Dear Mr. President,

We write to thank you for the Administration’s support of Everglades renewal and restoration projects during the 115th Congress, and to encourage your continued support as we work together to revitalize this critical ecosystem. During this last Congress you approved $158 million in funding for Everglades restoration projects and $692.2 million for Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) restoration, but there is still much work to be done. In 2000, 68 Everglades restoration projects were authorized but 19 years later no single project has been completed.

The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir is a key component of the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem. Its construction will allow water to flow south from Lake Okeechobee, alleviating some of the environmental impacts of Lake Okeechobee releases. The EAA Reservoir was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 along with an expedited review of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS), which is necessary to adjust the schedule to provide more water during the winter months, when our estuaries need it, and less during the summer months when releases damage our ecosystem. The prompt construction of the EAA Reservoir is vital to restoring the Everglades ecosystem.

In 2018, Florida experienced one of the worst outbreaks of Red Tide and Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) in state history. Your quick response in sending key administration personnel to assess the damage and work to find solutions to abate the harm to our economy now was critical, and we are looking at solutions to prevent similarly devastating outbreaks from happening again. We thank you for your attention to Florida and its environment.

The Florida Everglades are a unique and treasured ecosystem. We look forward to your continued support in completing these important infrastructure projects and, again, thank you for your help in 2018.

Sincerely,

Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress
Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress
Darren Soto
Member of Congress
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress
Ross Spano
Member of Congress
W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress
Michael Waltz
Member of Congress
Bill Posey
Member of Congress
Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress
Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala  
Member of Congress