



Everglades Coalition

1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA
ARTHUR R. MARSHALL FOUNDATION
AUDUBON OF FLORIDA
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES
AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION/ RIVERWATCH
CLEAN WATER ACTION
CLEAN WATER NETWORK
COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY
CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
DING DARLING WILDLIFE SOCIETY
EARTHJUSTICE
ENVIRONMENT FLORIDA
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
EVERGLADES COORDINATING COUNCIL
EVERGLADES FOUNDATION
EVERGLADES LAW CENTER
FLORIDA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
FLORIDA DEFENDERS OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
FLORIDA KEYS ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FRIENDS OF THE ARTHUR R. MARSHALL
LOXAHATCHEE WILDLIFE REFUGE
FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES
HENDRY GLADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FLORIDA
DIVISION
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FLORIDA KEYS
CHAPTER
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE MANGROVE
CHAPTER
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
LAST STAND
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
FLORIDA
LOXAHATCHEE RIVER COALITION
MARTIN COUNTY CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ASSOCIATION
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE
COUNCIL
THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY
THE PEGASUS FOUNDATION
REEF RELIEF
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION
SAVE IT NOW, GLADES!
SIERRA CLUB
SIERRA CLUB BROWARD GROUP
SIERRA CLUB CALUSA GROUP
SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL FLORIDA
GROUP
SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB LOXAHATCHEE GROUP
SIERRA CLUB MIAMI GROUP
THE SNOOK AND GAMEFISH
FOUNDATION
SOUTH FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT LEAGUE
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

May 2, 2013

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran,

On behalf of the 57 organizations of the Everglades Coalition and our more than 6 million members nationwide, we appreciate your committee's support for America's Everglades. As you consider your FY 2014 appropriations for the Department of the Interior (DOI), we ask that you provide funding at the President's budget request of \$95.5 million for projects and initiatives that are vital for advancing Everglades restoration. This request includes \$30 million for bridging Tamiami Trail, \$5 million for advancing the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, and \$1 million for combatting invasive species such as the Burmese python. It will allow these and other key projects to move forward without costly delays, and it will continue to employ thousands of workers and return millions of dollars back to the local economy.

We are witnessing significant progress in Everglades restoration after years of research and planning. In March 2013, we celebrated the completion of the one-mile bridge on Tamiami Trail, a major Everglades restoration project that is part of the Modified Water Deliveries project. The bridge will help restore water flow to the heart of the Everglades that wildlife, fisheries, and nesting colonies of birds rely on, including the endangered Everglade Snail Kite and the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Other important projects are under construction today, and agencies within DOI are taking a lead role and working together to fulfill the goals of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). We are pleased to report that every project previously authorized under CERP is currently under construction, and we anxiously await passage of a Water Resources Development Act so that we can begin construction on the next generation of CERP projects.

Everglades restoration projects make economic sense and bring critically needed jobs to Florida. Over the last three years, Everglades restoration projects have generated 10,500 jobs. The Tamiami Trail one-mile bridge construction brought more than 1,200 jobs to South Florida. Thousands of workers are employed by projects now under construction, such as the Picayune Strand project with more than 2,100 jobs and the Kissimmee River Restoration project with more than 1,000 jobs between 2010 and 2012. According to the National Park Service, in

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2011 alone, Everglades National Park created approximately 2,408 jobs and generated more than \$146.8 million in visitor spending. A 2011 study by Mather Economics found that for every dollar invested in Everglades restoration, four dollars are returned to the economy as a conservative estimate. Sustained funding to keep restoration projects on schedule is critical to avoiding collapse of the ecosystem, economy, and water supply of 7.5 million South Floridians.

We 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,



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