



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/
Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
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
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
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
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
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
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami
Tropical Audubon Society

November 16, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Prioritize WRDA Passage for America’s Everglades

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Representative Pelosi:

In the remaining days of this session, we respectfully request that you find time on the legislative calendar to consider the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

To date, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works have both recommended WRDA 2016 legislation. The leadership of these two Committees are working to get WRDA on a two-year cycle to ensure that necessary water infrastructure, such as projects associated with Everglades restoration, are given timely consideration. On behalf of the 61 organizations of the Everglades Coalition, we strongly support this effort and applaud both Committees for advancing Everglades restoration in this legislation.

Included in both bills is a critical project for Everglades restoration. This project, the Central Everglades Project (CEP), has been recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through a streamlined planning process that incorporated the active participation of many stakeholders in the Everglades community. The project has received widespread support of interested parties for the ecological benefits it will deliver. CEP will improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water flows to the northern estuaries, central Everglades National Park, and Florida Bay, while increasing water supply for municipalities, industry, and agricultural users. CEP includes elements of six projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). In short, CEP accelerates implementation of CERP while addressing major issues involved in restoring America’s Everglades.

Also included in the pending WRDA language is a cost adjustment for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, which will restore 55,000+ acres of natural habitat in the western portion of the Everglades. The project requires a Section 902 alteration, known as the Director’s Report and the Limited Re-Evaluation Report, which is

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needed in order to spend above the original authorization. The cost overrun is due to the design standard/construction upgrades to pump stations that were made after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Authorization of the Section 902 adjustment is needed to ensure the ecological and economic benefits of this restoration project can be achieved.

Once again, the Everglades Coalition is very grateful for the support that both Committees have given to the restoration of America's Everglades. Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to continuing to work together toward our shared goal of a healthy, restored Everglades ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael J. Baldwin
State Co-Chair

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