

<b>1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA</b>	<b>EVERGLADES LAW CENTER</b>	<b>NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION</b>
<b>AUDUBON</b>	<b>EVERGLADES TRUST</b>	<b>NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION</b>
<b>AUDUBON OF FLORIDA</b>	<b>FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY</b>	<b>PURRE WATER COALITION</b>
<b>AUDUBON OF SW FLORIDA</b>	<b>FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION</b>	<b>SANIBEL CAPTIVA AUDUBON</b>
<b>COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON</b>		<b>SANIBEL CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION</b>
<b>EVERGLADES FOUNDATION</b>		

November 26, 2008

United States Senator Bill Nelson  
 United States Senate  
 716 Senate Hart Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

We appreciate your continued dedication to improve the health of the Everglades and your strong support to provide critical funding for Everglades restoration. We understand that fiscal year 2009 funding legislation will be brought before Congress early next year. As you finalize this legislation, we respectfully ask the Congress to fund critical projects, with particular emphasis on construction of the Tamiami Trail component of the Modified Waters Delivery Project and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) -- projects authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Implementation of the CERP has been at a virtual standstill for eight years; there is a substantial amount of work to accomplish. Restoration efforts are at a critical juncture. Getting Everglades restoration back on schedule and keeping the federal/state partnership strong requires significant federal investment in fiscal year 2009 to allow substantive restoration projects to occur.

We respectfully request the following supplemental funding to the President's proposed 2009 budget for Everglades Restoration and the projects that support this effort. This critical funding will help preserve this great environmental and economic engine. In addition, it will create badly needed jobs in a time when our economy needs it most. Delay threatens to destroy the Everglades. As projects lay dormant, the Everglades continues to decline. Failure to move forward also translates into more costs. It is essential that we have funding at the earliest date possible.

The following chart highlights these funding priorities:

<b>Everglades Restoration Project</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Need</b>
Modified Waters Construction (Authorized 1989)	\$60 million	\$60 million
Picayune Strand CERP Project Construction (WRDA 2007)	\$24 million	\$24 million
Indian River Lagoon-South CERP Project Construction (WRDA 2007)	0*	\$15 million
Site 1 Impoundment CERP Project Construction (WRDA 2007)	0*	\$22.9 million
Kissimmee River Construction (WRDA 1992)	\$31 million	\$57 million
Canal 111 (C-111) – South Dade Construction (WRDA 1996)	\$4.5 million	\$28 million

\* *President's budget requests some planning money, but no construction money. The "need" column represents capability funding for FY09 on substantive restoration work.*

We thank you for your past support to help restore America's Everglades, and we look forward to working with you to keep this heralded ecosystem restoration project on track.

Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

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