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EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

EVERGLADES TRUST

**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

February 3, 2009

United States Senator Mary Landrieu
724 Hart Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

We are writing to express support for your amendment to “Increase Critical Water Resource and Ecosystem Restoration Funding” – that you will offer to *H.R.1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. We are pleased that Senator Bill Nelson is a co-sponsor of the amendment.

Specifically, the amendment doubles the overall allocation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (from the current level of \$4.6 billion) while requiring a one –billion-dollar funding stream for ecosystem restoration. It also adds additional funds to existing authorized programs within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and NOAA.

Many of the nation’s critical water resources have suffered from overuse and neglect. These rivers, deltas, freshwater lakes, and estuaries had long supported an expanding American economy by providing channels for trade, sustaining enormous fisheries, and creating opportunities for recreation and a way of life. America’s Everglades is an excellent example of a vital ecosystem that will benefit from your amendment.

Indeed, your amendment to America’s Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, offers an opportunity to increase critical investments in our nation’s water resources. With such investment, these critical water resources will continue to support thriving communities and ecosystems. Agencies charged with restoring our water resources are currently underfunded and, therefore, unable to advance urgent ecosystem restoration.

This investment would provide an immediate stimulus to the economy by providing funding to ready-to-go projects that will in turn create jobs. According to the Corps, it could execute

approximately \$12 billion in projects by the end of FY 2010, including \$1.5 billion in critical ecosystem restoration projects such as the Everglades, Mississippi River, and Coastal Louisiana.

Funding at this level would create an estimated 333,600 jobs, of which 88,800 would be direct jobs with an additional 244,800 new jobs created in industries supplying goods and services to these new workers and their families.

The Landrieu amendment will not only help preserve precious ecosystems, it will generate badly needed "green infrastructure" jobs to stimulate our economy.

Thank you for offering this amendment.

Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

cc: Senator Mel Martinez
Senator Bill Nelson
All Florida House Members

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