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18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

April 27, 2022

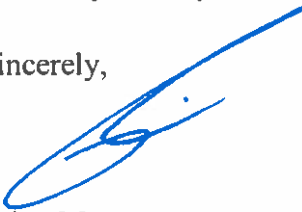
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, located at 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207. Allocating this funding will allow the USACE to keep up with the construction needs outlined in the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) to ensure Everglades restoration is achieved as quickly as possible. After years of planning, studying and designing, the USACE has reached a point in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) where they are prepared to begin building numerous water infrastructure projects that will play an integral role in rehabilitating the Everglades. At this critical moment in Everglades restoration, I ask that you take advantage of this opportunity to rehabilitate this delicate ecosystem by including \$318,018,000 to supplement the amount included for SFER in the president's budget so that the amount identified by the Corps is available to advance these critical projects. Infrastructure such as the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir will ensure Florida has the clean water that draws so many to our beautiful state. Without funding for these water infrastructure projects, the water quality issues that plague our environment, economy, public health and way of life will persist. The Florida Everglades stand out as one of the most ecologically-diverse regions in the world, and the health and resiliency of the Everglades has far-reaching impacts in our state and beyond. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress