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

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Secretary Connor:

As Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, we are deeply concerned that President Biden's "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" includes no direct funding for Everglades restoration. Despite this bill being touted as a "once-in-a-generation investment" to modernize America's infrastructure, Congressional Democrats failed—over our strong objections—to include any direct funding for restoring America's most awe-inspiring national park. We are, therefore, writing to ask you to fix this egregious mistake by including \$5 billion for Everglades restoration in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work plan to fully fund the next five years of approved Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) projects.

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, the State of Florida has made a historic investment in Everglades infrastructure and accelerated restoration. Unfortunately, this vigor has not been matched by the Biden Administration, which recently announced a delay in completion of one of the most important projects, the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir. Allocating additional funds to meet the needs of the next five years would help the federal government catch up to the investment made by the State of Florida. Moreover, providing the funding up front, instead of making it subject to the unreliable yearly appropriations process, will ultimately save taxpayer dollars and protect this extraordinary ecosystem.

Everglades restoration will improve the lives of millions of Floridians and non-Floridians alike by protecting this unparalleled habitat, Florida's economy and the public health of Florida's residents. Now is the time to act.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to our continued partnership in Everglades restoration.

Sincerely,



Rep. Brian Mast



Rep. Bill Posey



Rep. Gus Bilirakis



Rep. Greg Steube



Rep. Carlos Gimenez