



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader McConnell:

In Florida, our recommended "Keep Florida Working" Budget creates a dedicated source of revenue for Everglades restoration. Over the next 20 years, our proposal provides more than \$5 billion for Everglades restoration, beginning with a \$150 million investment this year. This means that during the four years of our second term, south Florida families can count on the state fully funding its share of the restoration of the Kissimmee River project and the construction of the C-43 and C-44 reservoirs – projects that will provide almost 100 billion gallons of water storage to protect our estuaries.

Unfortunately, President Obama's recently proposed budget cuts millions needed for the repair of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee, which is especially alarming because the US Army Corps of Engineers recently started to release water from Lake Okeechobee into surrounding estuaries again. These releases, controlled by the federal government, directed millions of gallons of water into our sensitive South Florida estuaries in 2013, causing damage to important environmental areas.

Additionally, the President's budget proposal for the Everglades does not come close to matching our investments at the state level. Despite the work of the Florida delegation to authorize key restoration projects such as the C-43 Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and the Broward Water Preserve Area, the President's budget doesn't provide any construction funds for these projects.

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Floridians deserve a clear commitment from President Obama to our Everglades. The needed repairs to the dam around Lake Okeechobee cannot be ignored or delayed any longer. The Army Corps of Engineers' discharges are affecting our estuaries and the state's quick action to finalize projects over the next four years cannot satisfactorily protect residents without the federal government stepping up its commitment to South Florida.

My administration is focused on completely funding our share of existing projects to protect our estuaries and restore the Everglades. In the absence of leadership from the President on these important environmental issues, I am hopeful that you will step up to the plate and work to have the Army Corps of Engineers secure the Lake Okeechobee dike and invest in the Everglades projects we need to ensure our state's continued safety and prosperity.

Please let me know any other information you may need to guide the investments in these areas as you begin your budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation