

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We write to request your direct support for a sustained annual commitment of \$200 million in construction funding for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) in your Administration's future budget requests to Congress. Along with your leadership in fulfilling this funding request, your unique background and experience is key to advancing this world-class environmental infrastructure project to restore America's Everglades.

As evidenced by a recent letter addressed to you and signed by all 27 members of Florida's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives, support for the Everglades is broad-based and bipartisan. The federal-state partnership to restore the Everglades is critical to protecting Florida's unique environmental character, preserving our state's full economic potential, and enhancing the resilience of every community south of Lake Okeechobee. Unfortunately, federal funding has not kept pace with the state's increasing contributions.

Florida's recent struggles with harmful algal blooms have raised the stakes for accelerated progress on Everglades restoration. Enhanced federal funding to complement years of historic state funding levels would fast-track design and construction of the Central Everglades Planning Project and the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir to divert and clean Lake Okeechobee releases and increase water deliveries to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. These funds would also advance important water storage and treatment infrastructure planned for the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir and Indian River Lagoon-South projects that will further reduce harmful algal bloom frequency and intensity through enhanced coastal water quality.

The critical infrastructure that will be built as a result of sustained annual budget requests to Congress of \$200 million in construction funding for SFER would be a tremendous part of your legacy in Florida. We stand ready to help execute any action you take to fulfill long overdue federal commitments to restore the Everglades.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Ron DeSantis
Governor



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator