

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Chairman DeFazio, and Chairman Carper:

America's Everglades is a national climate imperative. A restored Everglades will enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of an ecosystem that spans 3 million acres and serves as one of the East Coast's largest carbon banks. Congress has a generational opportunity to complete one of the world's largest ecosystems.

is needed is financial investment. The IDS is a detailed document showing how \$5 billion dollars of Federal funding, leveraged by State match, will be expended to complete multi-benefit projects that increase the resilience of communities and economies which are among the most vulnerable in the country to climate change. These projects also provide direct benefits to Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve - three jewels with letter, USACE confirms they can spend the \$5 billion in five years. In fact, \$2 billion of that funding will be obligated quickly to construct the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir. This flagship project of Everglades restoration is critical to fully harnessing the system of existing and planned projects. Both the Senate and House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees specifically called out the need for progress on the EAA Reservoir in their FY22 appropriations bills.

The completion of

Everglades restoration can be harnessed elsewhere for future ecosystem restoration projects across the country. Financially, a one-time \$5 billion

appropriations.

There are two paths ahead. One includes an infusion of \$5 billion to restore America's Everglades as a global banner for ecosystem restoration. Without this investment, the other path begins in FY23 when the single year need for Everglades restoration funding will be nearly five times the current funding levels. The path of underfunding Everglades restoration has been tried, and we now have an opportunity to finish the job and secure a major climate win.

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