



December 6, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Republican Leader McConnell, and House Republican Leader McCarthy,

The Everglades Foundation works to restore and protect America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and education. We write to support the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022. This legislation contains important water resource, natural infrastructure, and climate resilience policy for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is important that each Congress pass this historically bipartisan legislation, and the passage of WRDA 2022 would cap a decade of this important milestone. Fittingly, Everglades restoration enjoys historic bipartisan support and is a national example of restoration and natural infrastructure building resilience in areas facing daily threats from climate change. It was in WRDA 2000 that Congress authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), a 50-50 cost shared program between the federal government and the State of Florida to "restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection."

Today, Everglades restoration is amidst tremendous momentum and supports numerous benefits, including inland and coastal flood protection, unmatched recreation, habitat and ecosystem protection, human and ecological resilience, drinking water security for millions, and serves as an economic driver for local, state, and national economies. As Everglades restoration serves as a banner example of America's ability to combat climate change, build resilience, enhance water infrastructure, and restore the environment, it is important that federal policies continue to evolve in these areas. The passage of WRDA 2022 will advance our nation's ability to address these issues through work implemented by USACE. Through whatever legislative vehicle is needed, we support the passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Bradley Watson
Vice President of Policy and Engagement

Cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking member, Committee on Environment and

Public Works

The Honorable Ben Cardin, Chair, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Kevin Cramer, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano, Chair, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

The Honorable David Rouzer, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment