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September 28, 2007

United States Senator Mel Martinez
United States Senate
317 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Martinez:

We greatly appreciate your strong support for restoring the Everglades, in particular for your recognition of the importance of effectively moving ahead to complete the Modified Waters Delivery Project.

Thanks to your efforts, there is good report language in the Conference Report of the Water Resources Development Act that gives strong direction on completing the Mod Waters Project and proceeding on the Tamiami Trail project concurrently. However, the pending Senate Energy and Water Appropriations legislation did not fund any of the President's \$35 million for the Corps of Engineers' work on Mod Waters. Furthermore, the Senate bill includes problematic language provisions related to funding for Mod Waters that could impede the implementation of this project. Fortunately the House legislation does provide full funding for the Corps. We are pleased that both the House and Senate Interior Appropriations bills have full funding for Interior's Mod Waters work.

We realize that there is considerable uncertainty as to how the Senate will proceed on the many pending FY 2008 appropriations bills, including the Energy and Water bill. However, we respectfully urge you to contact the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Energy and Water Subcommittee and urge them to agree to funding the \$35 million for the Corps' Mod Waters Project work for FY 2008 when the legislation is considered in conference. The \$35 million for the Corps is critical and when combined with the \$15 million funding for Interior, the FY 2008 total of \$50 million will allow the Corps to continue its work to implement the Mod Waters project. We are concerned that if the full \$50 million is not appropriated that the Administration will scale back plans for the Tamiami Trail component of the Mod Waters project so that it will not achieve its necessary environmental objectives, which you so correctly included in the Conference Report for the Water Resources Development Act.

U.S. Senator Mel Martinez
June 28, 2007
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As you know, it is vitally important to complete the Modified Waters Delivery Project. Everglades National Park desperately needs more water and much of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is contingent on the completion of Mod Waters.

We thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

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