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FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

SIERRA CLUB

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

February 9, 2007

The Honorable Kendrick Meek
United States House of Representatives
313 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0922

Dear Congressman Meek:

Thank you for introducing HR 617 to authorize the Indian River Lagoon-South and the Picayune Strand projects that are the first major projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. While we are hopeful that Water Resources Development legislation that includes these two projects and meaningful Corps of Engineers reform will be enacted soon, we also recognize that we may need to seek passage of your legislation if the WRDA bill again stalls.

Your willingness to sponsor HR 617 shows your commitment both to making the implementation of these long-delayed projects a reality and to moving ahead with the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Again, we appreciate your stepping forward with this legislation, and we look forward to working with you on authorization of these vital projects and in moving ahead with all aspects of restoring America's Everglades.

Sincerely,

Charles Pattison, Executive Director
1000 Friends of Florida

Alan Keller, V.P. and Conservation Chair
Collier County Audubon Society

David Anderson, Executive Director
Audubon of Florida

Jennifer Hecker, Natural Resource Policy
Manager
Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Kathleen Aterno, Managing and Florida Director
Clean Water Action

John Adornato, National Co-Chair
The Everglades Coalition

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Senator Bob Smith, President
The Everglades Foundation

E. Thom Rumberger, Chairman
The Everglades Trust

Mark D. Perry, Executive Director
Florida Oceanographic Society

Manley Fuller, President
Florida Wildlife Federation

April Gromnicki,
Assistant Director of Government Relations
National Audubon Society

Shannon Estenoz, Sun Coast Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Malia Hale, Director National Restoration &
Water Resources Campaigns
National Wildlife Federation

David White, Regional Director
The Ocean Conservancy

Jonathan Ullman, Senior Regional
Representative
The Sierra Club

Cynthia Guerra, Executive Director
Tropical Audubon Society