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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

EVERGLADES TRUST

FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

SIERRA CLUB

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

February 9, 2007

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
317 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0911

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

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  
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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**