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TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 8, 2008

Speaker Marco Rubio
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are deeply concerned that the appropriations legislation that will be voted on by the House this week proposes to eliminate funding for both general Everglades restoration and the important Florida Forever program.

To date, Florida has had an excellent record of funding Everglades restoration, even though the Federal Government clearly has not done its part. However, last year the Congress finally authorized critical Everglades projects, and Congressional leaders, including key members of our Florida Congressional Delegation, have indicated they will press to greatly increase Federal funding for the Everglades.

We respectfully believe it would be a mistake to eliminate State funding for the Everglades at this critical time. Billions of dollars have been invested in the unprecedented effort to restore the Everglades. For the State to stop funding now would place the gains we have made in great jeopardy. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Everglades means so much to Florida's economy, and it is an environmental treasure that must be preserved for future generations.

We urge you to support efforts to include Everglades funding in the House bill that will at least match that in the Senate legislation when the House considers the funding measure later this week.

We recognize that these are difficult economic times, but to take short-term action to stop Everglades funding will be a great blow to Florida's future and could negate much of the massive investment made in the past. Florida cannot afford to put this great economic and environmental treasure at risk.

We thank you for your attention to our request.

Speaker Marco Rubio
April 8, 2008
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Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

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