



August 1, 2007

President George W. Bush

Transmitted by email: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to help restore America's natural resources by signing the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) when it reaches your desk. WRDA 2007 would authorize critical funding for ecosystem restoration projects, for the Everglades, the Upper Mississippi River, Coastal Louisiana and the Great Lakes.

WRDA 2007 contains crucial Everglades restoration projects that would mitigate harmful Federal drainage projects, restore more than 150,000 acres of wetlands, rescue significant estuarine resources, and help secure Florida's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The funding to restore the Everglades has a much broader impact than its name implies. The impacts from 50+ year old Federal drainage projects in the interior Kissimmee River, and coastal Caloosahatchee and St Lucie river valleys has devastated the prime natural resources of our coasts as well as the interior wetlands, the life blood of Florida.

Floods of freshwater from these outdated drainage projects has resulted in algal blooms of every color size and shape that have decimated oyster, scallop, fish and crab populations in our coastal waters. Our State's major economy - tourism - and ability to supply the nation with food from the sea is at risk.

Together with the restoration projects in the Upper Mississippi river and Coastal Louisiana this funding will begin to address the expanding dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, will restore 105,000 acres of habitat, protect 35,000 acres of floodplain habitat in five states along the river, and will include a significant monitoring program. The Coastal Louisiana Restoration program will begin to reverse land loss, protect important habitat for birds, fish, and other wildlife, which directly affect the region's economy and quality of life.

Ecosystem restoration projects for the Everglades, the Mississippi River, Louisiana's coastal wetlands, and the Great Lakes are overdue, but have very significant implications today. To deny this legislation is to accumulate an ecological debt that will become more expensive and less recoverable for future generations resulting in permanent losses. Let this be your legacy. These resources are our national heritage, they are what we will pass along to future generations. They are part of what makes America unique and great. Thank you in advance for helping to restore some of America's greatest natural treasures by signing the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 into law.

Sincerely,

Erick Lindblad, Executive Director

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation