



April 7, 2008

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

Re: Support funding for Florida Forever and Everglades Restoration

Honorable Speaker Rubio:

I am writing on behalf of the 3,500 members of the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation to strongly urge you to fund Everglades restoration and Florida Forever at current levels in the House budget.

The investment in Everglades restoration is paying to restore past actions with an eye toward the future growth of Florida. We must continue to fund restoration and preservation in tandem with growth or we will lose the value and benefit of both. The future costs will be much greater if we pass off our obligations and responsibilities to future generations.

These two projects directly affect everyone in this State and the economy of Florida. People from this State, nation and world come to enjoy the unique nature of Florida. These programs are a fundamental investment in the quality of our lives and the quality of our economy. Clean water, clean air, vast expanses of old Florida habitat are made available to the human and native creatures of our great State through these two programs. These fundamentals are what we risk losing without these programs.

Florida uniquely has had the foresight to create and invest in these programs to great benefit. Please do not discard these vital programs. Restore funding for the Everglades and Florida Forever!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rae Ann Wessel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rae Ann Wessel
Natural Resource Policy Director

Cc: Representative Ray Sansom
Representative Trudi K. Williams
Representative Gary Aubuchon
Representative Paige Kreegel

Senate President Ken Pruitt
Senate President Pro Tempore Lisa Carlton
Senator Burt L. Saunders
Senator Dave Aronberg