



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

June 24, 2013

Dear Mr. Powers:

On behalf of the River Coalition, I am writing to thank you for your continued support for Everglades restoration. The Rivers Coalition formed on the Treasure Coast in 1998 as a result of the damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and our coastal Atlantic waters. Over the decades, these discharge events have polluted the environment and crippled our economy. The Rivers Coalition now represents approximately 300,000 individuals via 61 member organizations.

After an update about the C-44 project from South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) at our Rivers Coalition meeting on May 30th, we are urging Congress to continue the project with the 2nd contract to build the authorized C-44 Reservoir in the amount requested by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) for \$270 million. At this 2013 session of the State Legislature an appropriation of \$ 20.5 million has been approved to help with the next phase of the C-44 project and it will be committed this year towards the construction in coordination with the USACOE. This is an essential project to continue implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and to protect the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. It is absolutely vital that the project be completed and that the work continue uninterrupted. Therefore, your constituents are strongly asking you secure the necessary funding to do so.

We also demand that the SFWMD look into the potential of conveyance and storage of more water from Lake Okeechobee south and into the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) 2 & 3/4. Recent data indicates that there may be more capacity within these STAs for water storage which may alleviate the need for harmful discharges of water from the Lake to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. Please model this potential and let us know if this can be accomplished.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Leon Abood'.

Leon Abood, Chairman
Rivers Coalition