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October 24, 2007

Congressman Timothy Mahoney  
1541 Longworth HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Mahoney:

On behalf of the Rivers Coalition, a 49-member organization represents over 200,000 individuals, we ask you to give your support to Everglades restoration.

Unfortunately, the President has said he would veto the pending Water Resources Development Legislation (WRDA). If the President chooses to veto this vital bill, we expect the House to promptly schedule a vote to override the veto.

We respectfully ask that you support the motion to override the President. The pending legislation is too critical to the future of the Everglades and must become law—even if the President exercises his veto.

There are three major Everglades projects that would be authorized by the enactment of the WRDA that are a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and begin the Federal partnership with Florida on restoration. Specific to our area is the Indian River Lagoon-South Plan. This vital project contains storage reservoirs and stormwater treatment areas for water quality improvement and expanded native habitat. The project will provide natural historical water delivers to the north and south forks of the St. Lucie River and estuary and the removal of organic muck from the St. Lucie River.

It is now time to get on with construction of this vital project. Local citizens have been involved in the planning of this project with the Federal and State partners for over a decade. In fact, the citizens of Martin County voted to tax themselves and have raised and contributed over \$50 million to purchase land needed for this project. Further delay can prove disastrous. Delay in authorizing this project must not be an option.

The members of the Rivers Coalition appreciate your past support and thank you for considering our request to override the President's veto of the WRDA. The Everglades needs your help.

Sincerely,

Leon Abood, Chairman

Mark Perry, Vice Chairman

CC: Governor Charlie Crist  
Senator Ken Pruitt  
Representative William Snyder  
Representative Gayle Harrell