



4500 Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 350
Miami, FL 33137
305-371-6399

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Thomas J. Rooney
2160 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

fl.audubon.org
GivetoAudubonFlorida.org

On behalf of Audubon Florida, I am writing to offer strong support for your efforts to make needed investments in our country's aging water infrastructure with respect to vetted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) projects.

Florida's economy depends on the work of the Army Corps, which advances flood control, navigation, water supply and ecosystem restoration. Funding for Everglades restoration infrastructure produces a 4 to 1 return on investment and enhances the economic benefits of tourism and activities like birdwatching, which contributes \$107 billion to the U.S. economy.

Water is a fundamental issue for the future of Florida and our nation. Without the ability for Congress to advance priority projects, needed water infrastructure improvements often fall behind.

The Water Resources Development bills enacted in 2014 and 2016 are notable examples of Congress restoring order to the budget process and passing stand-alone authorization bills. Historically, the annual appropriations process gave Congress a chance to secure funding for authorized Army Corps' projects, but since 2011 this practice has been banned under the earmark moratorium. The earmark moratorium presents a consistent challenge for Florida's economy, where water infrastructure programs, like Everglades restoration, is a prominent issue.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We strongly support your efforts to advance the REPAIR Act.

Sincerely,

Eric Draper, Executive Director