

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

Thank you both for last year including language highlighting the importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir to the restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem. I'd ask that you again include similar language in the FY2022 Energy, Water Development and Related Agencies Act.

As you know, the EAA Reservoir project was authorized as part of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Post Authorization Change Report in Sec. 1308 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-270). The construction of this critical infrastructure project will allow more water to flow south to the parched Everglades and Florida Bay, while also reducing damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's east and west coasts.

Recently, major steps have been made toward the completion of the EAA Reservoir, with Governor DeSantis signing the reservoir's Project Partnership Agreement. This agreement allows the State of Florida and the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with their respective portions of the reservoir. At this critical juncture in the lifespan of the EAA Reservoir, I believe it is imperative that this project continues to be prioritized and expedited.

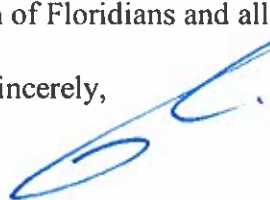
I respectfully request that the following language be included in the committee report to accompany the bill—

The Committee recognizes the critical importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir, authorized under Section 1308 of P.L. 115-270, to South Florida ecosystem restoration and efforts to combat harmful algal blooms in the greater Everglades region. Completion of the EAA Reservoir will allow more water that is trapped in Lake Okeechobee to flow south to the parched Everglades and Florida Bay, revitalizing those critical ecosystems while simultaneously securing access to drinking water for millions of Floridians. Furthermore, by allowing the water to flow south it will reduce the discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's east and west coasts which lead to Harmful Algal Blooms that negatively impact human health and critical habitats. It is imperative that the EAA Reservoir project is prioritized and expedited. The

Committee, therefore, urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize and expedite the completion of this project.

Thank you for your attention to this request. With your support, we can restore America's Everglades, as well as protect the public health of Floridians and all who visit our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Mast", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Brian Mast
Member of Congress