February 18, 2015

Governor Rick Scott
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor Scott,

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Everglades restoration as reflected in your Restoration strategies and your proposed FY15/16 budget.

I write again to urge your leadership on securing the 26,000 acres in the EAA made available by the South Florida Water Management District’s contract with US Sugar. That land is ideally situated for a reservoir that could store water that is currently being released from Lake Okeechobee to the estuaries. A reservoir in the EAA as anticipated by CERP could make that water available for supply and for the natural system. It is the most critical piece of land ever for Everglades restoration.

I urge you and the Florida legislature to bond funds from Amendment 1 to be used to exercise the US Sugar option and secure the land needed in the EAA for water storage. Thank you again for your leadership on the Everglades.

Sincerely,

Eric Draper
Executive Director