April XX, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso The Honorable Tom Carper

Chairman Ranking Member

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

410 Dirksen Building 456 Dirksen Building

Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster The Honorable Peter DeFazio

Chairman Ranking Member

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

2251 Rayburn Building 2251 Rayburn Building

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Carper, and Ranking Member DeFazio:

The undersigned businesses and leaders in the $887 billion outdoor recreation and conservation industry, who collectively employ thousands of Americans, request your authorization of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir in the upcoming 2018 Water Resources Development Act. The EAA Reservoir plan was recently submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their review in a Post-Authorization Change Report (PACR) on March 26, 2018. In anticipation of approval by the Corps, it is important that this critical project be included in this year’s WRDA bill for authorization to avoid unnecessary delay in its funding and implementation.

We commend Congress for returning to a two-year cycle for WRDA bills. In 2016, the Central Everglades Plan (CEP) was authorized through WRDA and as a result, the State of Florida prioritized planning and construction of major component of the CEP – the EAA Reservoir. Once completed, the reservoir is expected to reduce damaging, algae-causing discharges that inundate the communities along the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries by approximately 60 percent. It will also help send an additional 370,000 acre-feet of clean, freshwater south towards the Everglades and Florida Bay each year. This project is essential to the ongoing restoration of America’s Everglades and improving the health of the entire south Florida ecosystem and the communities that rely on it.

America’s Everglades is an iconic landscape for the nation with countless environmental and cultural benefits. From a recreation standpoint, it is a driving force for hunting, fishing, boating, paddling, and many more outdoor recreation opportunities. Recreational fishing alone in the Everglades region supports nearly $2.9 billion in total economic activity and more than 26,000 jobs driven by more than 1 million resident anglers. Restoring America’s Everglades is a necessary commitment and investment not only from a conservation standpoint, but directly benefits the billions of dollars and thousands of jobs tied to outdoor recreation, tourism, and other sectors that define the Sunshine State’s quality of life and economic competitiveness.

Our companies thank you for your continued support for restoring America’s Everglades and again urge you to authorize the EAA Reservoir in the upcoming 2018 Water Resources Development Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Action Craft Boats

AERE Marine Group

AllSports Productions, LLC

Altima Yachts, Inc.

American Fly Fishing Trade Association

American Sportfishing Association

Barnett

Bass Pro Shops

Big Cedar Lodge

Brunswick Corporation

Bayliner

Boston Whaler

Brunswick Commercial & Government Products

Harris Boats

Land ‘N’ Sea Distributing, Inc.

Mercury Marine

Meridian Yachts

Sea Ray

Cypress Cay Pontoons

Lowe Boats

Lund

Crestliner

Princecraft

Garelick Eez-In

Thunder Jet

Cabela’s

Casey Key Marina

Catalina Yachts

Coastal Bay Boats

Coastline Boats

Contender Boats

Costa Sunglasses

Everglades Boats

First Lite

Fishpond, Inc.

Florida Sportsman

Freedom Boat Club

Frabill Fishing

Glidecoat

Haimes Coleman Group

Headhunter

Info-Link

Joule Yacht Transport

King Plastic Corporation

Maverick Boat Group

Cobia Boats

Hewes Light Tackle Boats

Pathfinder Boats

Maverick Boats

National Marine Manufacturers Association

Norcross Marine Products

Northwest Marine Trade Association

Outtech

The Orvis Company, Inc.

Plano Fishing

Poseidon Window Treatments

Pure Fishing, Inc.

Redington

RIO Products

Sage Manufacturing

Scout Boats

Simms Fishing Products

SITKA Gear

Smartwool

Southern Boating & Yachting, Inc.

Starbrite

Teak Isle Manufacturing and Boat Outfitters

Temple Fork Outfitters

Viking Sport Cruisers, Inc.

Vista Outdoor

Vitrifrigo America LLC

Water Sports Industry Association

The White River Marine Group

Ascend Kayaks

Mako

Nitro

Ranger

Regency

Stratus

Sun Tracker

Tracker

Triton

Yamaha Marine Group

[Company names are listed here]

cc: The Honorable R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works

The Honorable Jim Inhofe, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Garrett Graves, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Grace Napolitano, U.S. House of Representatives