

Jan. 31, 2017

Hon. Rick Scott  
Governor, State of Florida  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

Water is Florida's most precious resource and the state's largest freshwater system – which spans from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades – deserves a thoughtful, comprehensive solution in addressing water quality and quantity issues. This solution has already been developed with input from some of the most knowledgeable scientists, engineers, and water quality experts in the world.

For this reason, dozens of water policy experts and scientists across the State of Florida have come together in support of finishing the work that was agreed upon more than 15 years ago.

Our recommendation is to complete the authorized projects that are part of the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) including 1) Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) 2) Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP,) 2) Herbert Hoover Dike repairs, 3) Florida's Restoration Strategies, and 4) Kissimmee River basin restoration.

This plan is codified in the IDS, which is a comprehensive restoration “blueprint” of construction projects linked to Everglades’ restoration and the management of the Lake Okeechobee system. The goal is to provide the optimum science-based sequencing of key restoration projects to deliver maximum benefits as early as possible.

Well-established science should not be disregarded. Deviating from this scientifically-based schedule for project development and implementation will cause significant delays and compromise the potential for moving toward restoration.

Enclosed you will find the signatures of 60 water experts who have had direct involvement, ranging more than 30 years, in projects regarding restoration in the Everglades bionetwork from St. Johns County, the South Florida Water Management District and Water Resources Advisory Commission, and dozens of professional engineers, marine biologists, technical consultants who support the existing plan.

Sincerely,

Henry Dean, former executive director  
South Florida Water Management District  
St. Johns River Water Management District

cc: Hon. Joe Negron, president, Florida Senate  
Hon. Richard Corcoran, speaker, Florida House of Representatives

*Enclosure(s)*

Newton Cook

Craig Varn

Harry Raucher

Harkley Thornton

**LETTER FROM 60 WATER POLICY EXPERTS ACROSS FLORIDA URGING SUPPORT OF  
SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS PLAN FOR ACHIEVING RESULTS IN EVERGLADES  
RESTORATION**

As a scientist, engineer or water policy expert, I strongly support the path to restoration reflected in the consensus plan of federal and state agencies as the best option for achieving the environmental goals for the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Coastal Estuaries.

It has now been more 15 years since bipartisan, Congressional approval of the comprehensive plan to restore the Everglades. In November 2015, all state and federal agencies involved in Everglades' restoration produced a consensus implementation strategy providing a detailed, and defensible, project schedule that considered natural system priorities, inter-project dependencies and, importantly, a long term financial projection that state and federal legislators can use as a roadmap to keep this colossal project on track. The plans are in place, the funding has been identified and the technical feasibility documented. Adhering to this program will provide certainty that restoration of the Everglades/Lake Okeechobee ecosystem, including the Caloosahatchee and St Lucie Estuaries, will be achieved at the earliest possible date.

Name: Henry Dean

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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RESTORATION

Anthony Federico	Ed Barber	Jeff Rosenfeld
Beth Ross	Ed Dickey	Jeff Sumner
Bill Baker	Ed Weinberg	Jim Labowski
Bill DeBusk	Ernie Barnett	John Juston
Bob Brown	Frank Nearhoof	Joshua Kellam
Bradley Waller	Gary Ritter	Lee "Chip" Merriam
Brian Roy	Greg Munson	Leslie Bromwell
Chuck Aller	Henry Dean	Lorisa Asmussen
Church Roberts	Herschel Vinyard	Luna Phillips
Dave Brown	Irene Kennedy Quincey	Matt Fisher
Del Botcher	James Guida	Mike Collins
Doug Bournique	James Humble	Miya Burt-Stewart
Nick Gutierrez	Forrest Dierberg	David Childs
Nyla Pipes	Hugh English	Dongwei Zhu
Rich Budell	Timothy Lang	
Russell Frydenborg	Samira Daroub	
Sharon Trost	Kerry Kates	
Tom DeBusk	Forrest Izuno	
Tom MacVicar	Doug Mann	
Tommy Strowd	Trudi Williams	
Melissa Meecker	Karson Turner	