

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy & Water,
and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
& Water, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson & Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you develop the Energy & Water Appropriations bill for FY17, we respectfully request that you include the following language under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction Account:

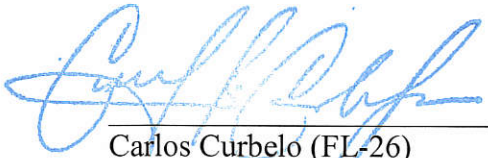
- *“Army Corps Construction, Environmental Infrastructure, \$55,000,000”*

Environmental infrastructure projects provide short and long term public health benefits, including measurable improvements to public and environmental health through the construction of advanced wastewater treatment systems, and significant job creation.

During FY17, USACE Environmental Infrastructure funding will be used to construct wastewater treatment systems designed to protect and restore the near shore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Established in 1990, the Sanctuary is a federally recognized flag-ship marine space that protects the only living coral reef in the continental U.S. and the third largest coral reef system in the world. Unfortunately, its existence is in serious jeopardy due to the effects of South Florida’s land-based pollutants – primarily wastewater discharge and storm water runoff.

The USACE Environmental Infrastructure account provides a vital funding source to wastewater projects across the country. As has been shown in the Florida Keys, these projects are essential to protecting our environment and supporting our local economies. We thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Carlos Curbelo (FL-26)
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch (FL-21)
Member of Congress



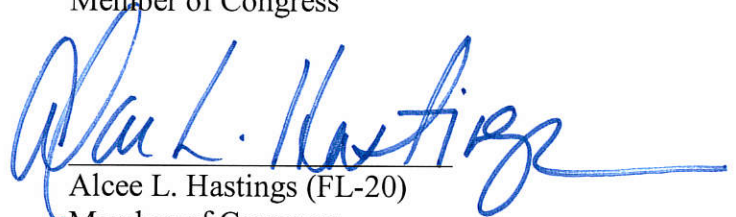
Lois Frankel (FL-22)
Member of Congress



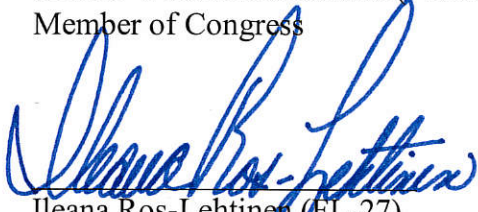
Patrick E. Murphy (FL-18)
Member of Congress



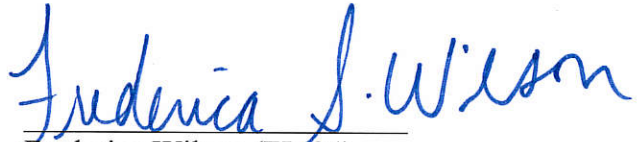
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27)
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson (FL-24)
Member of Congress