



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/ANRS/029019

JAN 12 2007

The Honorable Adam Putnam
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Putnam:

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 2006, to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne regarding your request that appropriate funds in the fiscal year 2008 budget be allocated to allow National Wildlife Refuges located in Florida to be staffed at an increased level. Secretary Kempthorne has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to respond directly to you. An identical letter is being sent to the other signatories.

The Service takes its responsibility to manage the Refuge System seriously and will continue to ensure that trust resources are protected as required by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. Funding for the Refuge System has increased by 28 percent since 2001. However, the increase was primarily directed to specific priorities including invasive species control, borderland security, and maintenance needs at targeted refuges. During this time the Refuge System's operational budget has not kept up with inflation. In order to meet the challenge of the overall Federal budget situation and higher costs for fuel, electricity, supplies, and repairs, the Refuge System is exploring new ways to ensure that its mission is accomplished.

We strive to balance the number of staff positions and operational capability within the available budget for the Refuge System. One successful effort has been the complexing of refuges. As you are aware, complexing involves consolidating staff, equipment, and supplies for several refuge units in close proximity, rather than dividing resources among each refuge. Let me assure you that while complexing may lead to reduced or reassigned staff on some refuges, the goal is to ensure the Refuge System's mission is accomplished, while providing important services and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities to the public.

We are confident that proposed staff decisions at refuges in Florida will continue to provide visitor access and a quality experience. As we move forward, we will continue to communicate with you about any management changes. The Service plans to continually evaluate the effect of staff reductions to ensure refuge operation needs and maintenance plans are addressed.

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IN AMERICA** 

The Honorable Adam Putnam

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While the President's fiscal year 2008 budget has not yet been released, we are considering refuge funding needs as we formulate our final request. We will continue to look for creative ways to efficiently achieve the Refuge System's mission.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Sam Hamilton, the Service's Southeast Regional Director, at (404) 679-4000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Stansell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Acting Deputy
DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

003066
December 12, 2006

RECEIVED

2006 DEC 19 AM 11:36

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

We are writing to address the current crisis facing Florida's National Wildlife Refuges. National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) face a \$102 million budget shortfall, which could result in the reduction of 69 staff positions. This insufficient funding will leave 12 refuges in Florida without staff, and this shortfall prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from adequately managing and restoring wildlife habitat, safely maintaining facilities, and providing quality recreational programs. For example:

- Pelican Island NWR in Indian River County, the nation's first refuge, will no longer be able to provide environmental and outreach programs.
- Ding Darling NWR in Sanibel Island, will no longer be able to staff the visitor center on a regular basis and provide educational programs.
- Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR, commonly known as the gateway to the Everglades, will undergo a reduction in their water quality monitoring and invasive plant control programs.
- Merritt Island NWR will undergo a reduction in their scrub jay management program.
- Florida Keys NWR Complex will suffer adverse affects to the sea turtle survey.
- Crystal River NWR will have to reduce manatee surveys, which compromises the Refuge's ability to protect manatees.
- Chassahowitzka NWR will undergo a reduction to the Whooping Crane Recovery program.

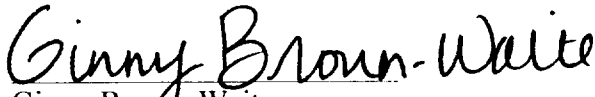
Because of major funding shortfalls for staff, our refuges are no longer able to support their most basic mission. The Refuge System in Florida needs a \$575,000 increase each year just to retain current services. An example of the impact on the local community is evidenced at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. For every dollar spent in the refuge's budget, approximately \$7 is generated in recreational expenditures to the local economy, and over \$500,000 of local tax revenues are generated through recreational expenditures.

Again, we urge you to increase funding for Florida refuges when you make your Fiscal Year 2008 funding request. Without adequate funding for our refuges, the wildlife that


depend on these important habitats and the public that values these treasures for recreation and education will suffer.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

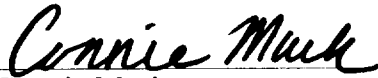
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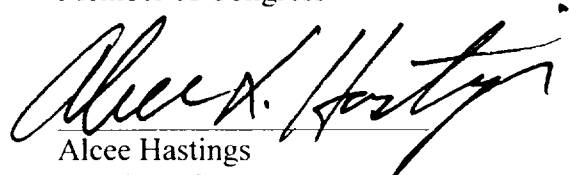
Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress



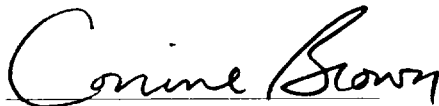
Adam Putnam
Member of Congress



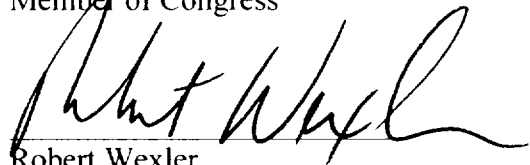
Connie Mack
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman-Schulz
Member of Congress



Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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June 6, 2008

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Department of Defense
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Assistant Secretary:

The implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Revised Interim Operations Plan (RIOP) allows for extremely low flows to the Apalachicola River over the next five years. In fact, the water levels under this plan will be the lowest in history for the lower basin, and the impacts are potentially devastating.

Not only do we have serious concerns about the effects that the RIOP will have on the Apalachicola River and Bay, we also have questions about the legality of this new water plan as it relates to the authorized uses of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) system, the 1958 Water Supply Act, and the recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (*Southeastern Federal Power Customers, Inc. v. Peter Geren, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Army et al.*).

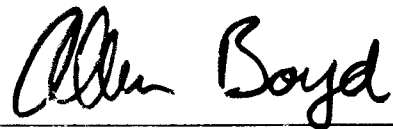
We ask that the Corps immediately halt the RIOP so that our concerns can be fully addressed. We stand together in protecting our state's resources from irreparable damage and for the thousands of Floridians who depend on the Apalachicola River and Bay for their livelihood.

The members of the Florida Delegation must ensure that the needs of all of the users along the ACF system are met. Thank you in advance for your reply and assistance in this most urgent matter.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



U.S. Representative Allen Boyd

Ric Keller
R. Keller

Paul J. Brown
Paul J. Brown

Lonnie Mack
Lonnie Mack

Mark Gray-Brown
Mark Gray-Brown

CW Blye
C. W. Blye

Jeff Miller
Jeff Miller

Dave Webster
Dave Webster

Myra
Myra

Tom Feeney
Tom Feeney

Alma Rose-Letterman
Alma Rose-Letterman

Robert Walker
Robert Walker

Cliff Stearns
Cliff Stearns

Corina Brown
Corina Brown

Gary Brown-Water
Gary Brown-Water

Janet P

Anders Ambau

Anders Ambau

Sam Bilibin

Sam Bilibin

Ron Klein Ron Klein

Alex d. Hays

Alex Hays

Kathy Castor

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Adrian Pagan

Adrian Pagan

Neil Harpelle

Neil Harpelle

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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2008 JUL -2 PM 12: 21

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

June 27, 2008

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Department of Defense
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Woodley:

We write to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contract with the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies to complete a comprehensive study of water management in the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint (ACF) river basin.

For more than 20 years, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama have attempted to resolve disputes over allocation of surface waters within the ACF basin. Uses including navigation, flood control, hydropower, water supply, water quality, and recreation compete for the ACF's finite water resources. Despite considerable negotiation, mediation, and litigation among the three states and the Federal government, we still lack an equitable solution for management of the ACF system.

Today, we face a crisis. Chronic drought conditions in the southeastern U.S. have led to dramatic decreases in the quantity of water entering the ACF system. Both these natural fluctuations in water supply and human-related uses have led to unprecedented reductions in freshwater inflow entering Apalachicola Bay. The water and nutrients that the Apalachicola River delivers to the bay are critical to the health and productivity of the estuary and adjacent coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This area supports significant recreational and commercial fisheries, including oysters (90 percent of Florida's fishery), shrimp, grouper, and other high-value species.

We understand the challenges that the USACE faces in managing water in the ACF basin. To support sound, science-based decision-making, we need accurate and timely data that identify the full range of ecological and socioeconomic consequences of potential water-allocation decisions. As an independent and trusted source of scientific analysis and advice, the NRC is uniquely qualified to undertake a comprehensive study of water management in the ACF. We request that such a study include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following topics:

- (1) A summary of the existing body of scientific knowledge on:

- the ecology, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeochemistry of the Apalachicola River and the greater ACF River System;
 - the ecosystem services provided by the Apalachicola River;
 - the impact of variation in freshwater flow on the ecology of the river and downstream coastal ecosystems, including the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem; and
 - how to restore the natural hydraulic function of the ACF River System, including restoration of floodplains and wetlands.
- (2) An assessment of models that serve as the basis for the master manuals of the ACF River System.
 - (3) An assessment of water availability, supply options, demand-management alternatives, and socioeconomic factors that influence uses in the ACF River System, including water quality, navigation, hydropower, recreation, in-stream ecology, and flood control.
 - (4) An assessment of policies, regulations, and other factors that affect Federal water project operations.
 - (5) Recommendations for an approach to determine water limits that recognize the needs of all water users along the ACF River System, including adequate in-stream flow requirements.
 - (6) Recommendations for any additional measures to address the long-term watershed management needs of the ACF River System as the National Research Council considers appropriate.

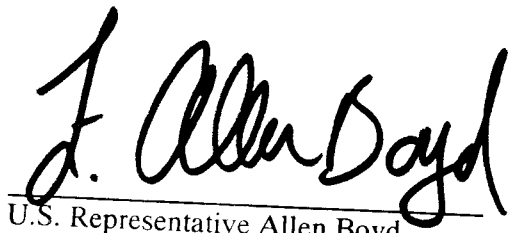
The natural resources and local economies along Apalachicola Bay are already suffering due to the low-flow conditions in the ACF basin. Thus, we request that the USACE proceed expeditiously to negotiate with the NRC on the study's scope and enter into a contract within 60 days. We hope that the NRC would be able to deliver its final report and make it available to Congress within 18-24 months. We feel that this timeframe will allow the results and information compiled by the NRC to augment the water control manuals for the ACF system that the USACE is in the process of updating.

We appreciate your assistance. Please contact us if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



U.S. Representative Allen Boyd

Paul

Richard Hunt

Ree Yang

Cornie Mack

Cary Brown - Deets

Dave Walker

Vern G. Blum

Art Feore

Tom Feinberg

Al Keller

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Steve Ross Lichten

Phil Martinez

Ron Klein

cc: Hon. Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
Hon. Pete Geren, Secretary of the U.S. Army
Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Brig. General Joseph Schroedel, South Atlantic Division Commander, U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Col. Byron Jorns, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Sam Hamilton, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Governor Charlie Crist, State of Florida
Secretary Michael Sole, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7229
Washington, D.C. 20240


Dear Secretary Kempthorne:


Now that the Democratic Leaders who control Congress have finally allowed the federal government's misguided ban on new offshore drilling and oil shale production to expire, we are writing to urge you to identify those actions Congress needs to take to ensure our nation can reap the benefits of these new domestic energy supplies as quickly as possible. The more quickly we can increase domestic energy production, the more quickly we can boost our flagging economy, increase economic growth and jobs, and bring relief to energy-strapped Americans struggling with high gas prices and rising utility bills.

We are concerned by media reports that radical anti-energy groups may, with the tacit support of the Democratic Congressional leadership, file a barrage of lawsuits to continue to deny the American people access to these vital sources of American-made energy. We are also concerned by speculation that federal red tape and bureaucratic hurdles exist that will prevent Americans from gaining quick access to these resources. Such delays would needlessly hinder the creation of tens of thousands of good American jobs and further slow our nation on its path to lower gas prices and energy independence.

In this light, we respectfully request that you quickly provide a detailed list of any potential bureaucratic barriers and identify any potential litigation that may unnecessarily prevent the American people from having prompt access to, or reaping the benefits from, these newly-liberated sources of American-made energy. We also request that you identify any responsible actions that might be taken by Congress in order to ensure these resources are fully and completely unlocked in the most expeditious manner possible.

Sincerely,

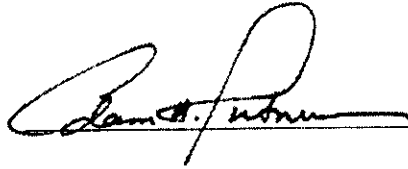

Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
Republican Leader


Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Republican Whip

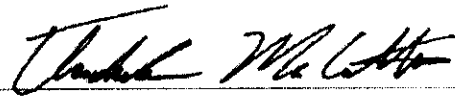
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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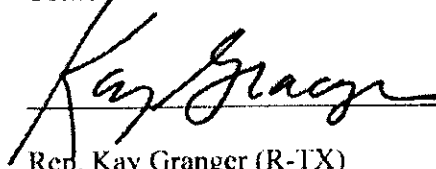
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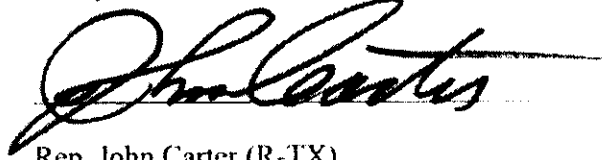
Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL)
Conference Chairman



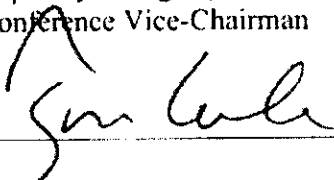
Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)
Policy Committee Chairman



Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)
Conference Vice-Chairman



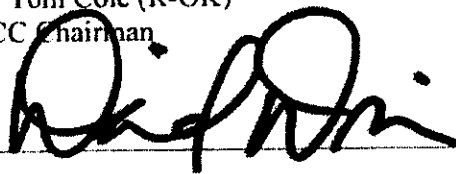
Rep. John Carter (R-TX)
Conference Secretary



Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
NRCC Chairman



Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)
Chief Deputy Whip



Rep. David Dreier (R-CA)
Rules Committee Ranking Republican



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



DEC - 4 2008

The Honorable Adam Putnam
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Putnam:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2008, to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in which you joined eight other Members of Congress in requesting a list of actions Congress needs to take to ensure our Nation can benefit from new offshore drilling and oil shale production, as quickly as possible.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) shares your view that new offshore drilling and oil shale resources are strategically important in enhancing our Nation's domestic energy supplies and for the revenues it generates for Treasury. DOI's recent distribution of a record \$23.4 billion to state, American Indian, and Federal accounts from onshore and offshore energy production during Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 from royalties, rents, and bonuses shattered the 2007 total of \$11.6 billion, far surpassing the previous record of \$12.8 billion disbursed in FY 2006. While the Nation has seen the price of oil decline in recent weeks from its record high of over \$140 per barrel this past July, various sources indicate that this is only temporary, driven largely by current economic conditions. In fact, in its 2008 World Energy Outlook released last month - after the recent decline in oil prices - the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts world energy demand will increase by 45 percent between now and 2030. In addition, the IEA predicts that between now and 2015, the price of oil will hover around \$100 per barrel, but will ultimately rise to over \$200 per barrel by 2030. Despite the natural inclination to defer development of new resources and those located in frontier areas during periods when prices are low, with signs pointing to future price increases, the steps we take today will have a direct impact on whether we will be ready to meet future demand in both the near- and long-term. Accordingly, we must continue to pursue balanced, environmentally responsible energy development from all sources - conventional, unconventional, and renewable - if we are to meet future demand, increase economic security, and lessen our dependence on oil from foreign sources.

For the foreseeable future, oil and gas will continue to be necessary to help fuel our cars, heat our homes, and power our economy. The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) has vast oil and gas resources, and our ability to access those resources in an environmentally safe manner is critical to bridging the gap between traditional fuel sources and renewable resources. Only 2 percent of the OCS is leased, yet that 2 percent provides 27 percent of our domestic oil production. This points directly to the need to increase access to other areas on the OCS where the potential for

environmentally safe oil and gas development is great. The good news is that the energy potential for the areas that are no longer under congressional moratoria and Presidential withdrawal is significant. In order to assure greater energy independence in the future, it is absolutely essential that these moratoria not be reinstated. In addition, coastal states should share in the revenues that will be generated as a result of expanded production into new and frontier areas. Accordingly, Congress should consider the very tangible benefits to be derived from legislation that would establish revenue sharing with coastal states.

Despite the increased energy development opportunities that may result from the repeal of the moratoria, proceeding in a sound, thoughtful, and efficient manner is not without its obstacles. As you know, litigation challenges on energy projects are prolific, often serving purely as a means to delay resource development rather than to contest legitimate legal issues. For example, this past February the Minerals Management Service (MMS) conducted the largest OCS lease sale in Alaskan history. Almost immediately upon completion of that sale, litigation challenges ensued. Over 700 leases have been issued in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, and in one form or another, they are all facing legal challenge. While we cannot know with certainty what development challenges lay ahead if some of these new areas come online, our recent experience in Alaska provides an excellent example of what we might expect from organizations committed to stopping or delaying domestic energy projects.

This is where Congressional assistance can be very helpful. Legislation to provide for expedited judicial review in courts would help resolve these issues promptly, thereby distinguishing between legitimate legal issues and efforts to delay resource development. Specifically, legislation that defines not only the time in which an action must be filed, but also designating the court in which it will be heard is needed. Designating a particular court, such as the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear cases concerning MMS decisions on exploration plans and development and production plans, would have the added benefit of fostering a body of knowledge and expertise within the judiciary on these matters. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA, Section 23) already vests this court with exclusive jurisdiction to review the five-year leasing program.

There are other areas where we could benefit from congressional assistance as well. As we watched one of the greatest energy spikes in our Nation's history occur this summer, it became clear that we do not have all of the tools necessary to move nimbly to address energy needs. For example, on July 30, 2008, Secretary Kempthorne announced the first step in creating a new Five Year Plan for oil and gas development on the OCS as a means of responding to the dramatic increase in oil prices. That announcement started the clock on a 2 ½ -year process. One of the reasons that process is so long is because the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act mandates three public comment periods. Because MMS prepares Environmental Impact Statements at the site-specific sale stage where there are also multiple opportunities for public input, I think Congress should look at streamlining the process so that policymakers can be more responsive to changing energy needs while still affording meaningful opportunities for public involvement.

Opening frontier areas for energy resource development and promoting additional development in areas already open for exploration present challenges as well as opportunities, both in the onshore and offshore environments. Our recent experience in the creation of the pilot offices for onshore oil and gas production mandated under Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides an excellent example of how procedural efficiencies can be achieved without sacrificing our stewardship responsibilities.

Since the creation of these pilot offices, the backlog of pending drilling permits has been reduced, interagency coordination has improved and duplication between participating Federal and state agencies has been eliminated, achieving an overall 25 percent reduction in processing time under the National Environmental Policy Act. We need the authority to replicate this successful experience in two significant emerging areas of energy resource development: renewable resources in the southwestern U.S. and conventional resources located in Alaska. Pilot offices create management efficiencies by facilitating the co-location of those with energy resource development processing responsibilities and expertise to operate in a shared, common environment, thereby improving communication and coordination. As renewable energy resources expand our Nation's energy portfolio, the benefits to be gained through the establishment of pilot offices are significant. Similarly, the development of conventional resources in frontier areas in Alaska also supports the need for the type of internal coordination among agencies, both state and Federal, that only co-location can provide. I urge Congress to consider the benefits that such authorities would provide.

We need to be realistic about the resources necessary to meet our ever-increasing energy needs. The development of frontier areas and new energy sources, such as oil shale, require long-term planning. In order to staff operations adequately, to commit the time and personnel necessary to perform the many environmental, cultural, and other analyses necessary to ensure the development of our resources in an environmentally responsible manner, we need to be able to plan on funding that goes beyond a year-to-year basis. I urge Congress to consider this when determining how best to assist us.


Finally, I believe the next Congress will face an ongoing challenge by those who would argue that oil and gas companies already have too much land under lease in which production is not occurring. Some have referred to this as "use it or lose it." However, it is important to remember that the existence of a lease does not guarantee the discovery of or any particular quantity of oil and gas. To truly determine this, lessees must develop data and eventually explore their leases, which require numerous permits involving compliance with a variety of environmental laws and regulations. This process often takes months or years. In the offshore environment, while the government conducts activities to determine resource availability, it is the private sector that funds exploration activities for more refined data and analysis on a site-specific basis that can lead to production. The lengthy processes we have in place can lead to more production, but it takes time to find the exact location of those resources, and discovery of resources in sufficient quantities to develop economically is not guaranteed. For example, in shallow water, approximately one in three wells results in a discovery of oil and/or natural gas sufficient to produce economically. In deeper water, one well in five is economical.

I believe we must meet our future energy needs in a way that continues to afford appropriate environmental safeguards consistent with our stewardship responsibilities. To achieve these mutually inclusive goals will require cooperation among numerous entities, including states. Our experience has shown that when states play an active role in our energy development activities, we dramatically increase our ability to reach consensus-based decisions. We want to continue to work with states and other stakeholders to meet the energy challenges that lay ahead and we support the concept of revenue sharing with those states.

Again, thank you for your letter and your continued interest in our energy development work. I would be pleased to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss these ideas in greater detail.

An identical letter has been sent to each of the eight Members who co-signed the October 2, 2008, letter.

Sincerely,



C. Stephen Allred
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2009

Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Congratulations on your recent Confirmation as Secretary of Interior. As Members of the Florida Delegation, we write to you to request your support for ongoing Everglades Restoration efforts. The restoration and preservation of the South Florida ecosystem and the Florida Everglades is one of our top priorities, and we hope that it will become one of your priorities as well. As you know, there is no other ecosystem in the world comparable to the Florida Everglades, and it is our responsibility to preserve this unique ecosystem for future generations. We currently face a critical time in ongoing restoration efforts; to date the Federal contribution has been significantly behind State efforts; a new Administration provides an opportunity to reduce this trend and show strong leadership and support for restoration.

We urge you to request funding in the President's FY10 Budget that will fund restoration efforts at their full capabilities. This first Budget by the new Administration will lay the groundwork for future year Budget priorities, thereby making it essential that the Everglades are given high priority.

We respectfully request the Administration fund restoration related projects at \$88.5 million in FY10 for projects detailed below:

<u>Agency/Project</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>
NPS/Modified Water Deliveries	+\$80 million
FWS/Invasive Exotic Removal at Loxahatchee NWR	+\$2 million
FWS/Water Quality Monitoring at Loxahatchee NWR	+\$1 million
NPS/Python Control Measures	+\$1 million
NPS/Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Initiative	+\$4 million
NPS/South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	+\$0.5 million

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Total

+\$88.5 million

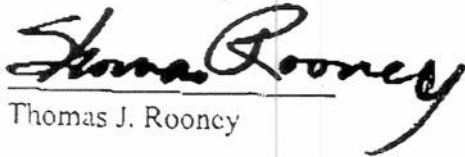
Additionally, we request that the Administration utilize any available funding provided in an economic stimulus package to continue ongoing efforts to improve water flows under Tamiami Trail, remove invasive exotics, continue enhanced water quality and water level monitoring and continue important scientific research.

We look forward to working with you on Everglades issues and we hope you will visit this unique and special ecosystem in the near future.

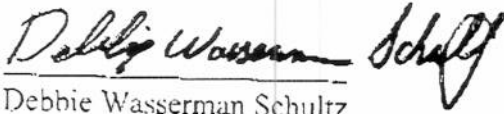
Sincerely,

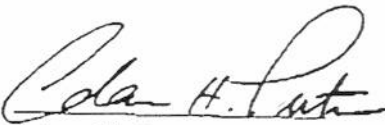

Mario Diaz-Balart


Alcee L. Hastings


Thomas J. Rooney


Kendrick B. Meek


Debbie Wasserman Schultz


Adam II. Putnam


Ron Klein

MARIO DIAZ-BALART
45TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

BUDGET COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
ASSISTANT WHIP
MEMBER, REPUBLICAN
HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE

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FAX: (202) 326-0348

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0925

DISTRICT OFFICES
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(305) 225-6866
FAX: (305) 225-7432
4715 GOLDEN GATE PARKWAY
SUITE ONE
NAPLES, FL 34116
(239) 348-1620
FAX: (239) 348-3509

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Christopher J Mansour, Director, Congressional Affairs

DATE: 2/20/09

FAX #: (202) 208-5533

FROM:

- () Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart
- () Thomas Bean Chief of Staff
- () Lauren Robitaille Legislative Director
- () Miguel Mendoza Sr. Legislative Assistant
- () Emily Zammit Legislative Correspondent
- () Stefanie Churchwell Scheduler
- () Adriana Pereira Press Secretary
- () Justin Kimbler Legislative Assistant
- () Intern

COMMENTS:

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 3



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 17 2009

The Honorable Adam H. Putnam
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Putnam:

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2009, co-signed with six other members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, concerning the restoration of the Everglades. Your letter emphasizes the important stewardship responsibility the Department of the Interior has for the natural and cultural resources of this ecosystem. I want to assure you that I strongly support the restoration of the Everglades.

I have been at Interior just a few weeks. My staff and I have been extensively engaged in formulation of the President's FY 2010 Budget Request. I appreciate your funding recommendations and assure you they will be considered as we finalize a budget that reflects the Administration's priorities.

Although I am not yet able to provide specific information on what will be included in the President's FY 2010 Budget Request, we at Interior remain committed to the completion of the Modified Water Deliveries project that will greatly benefit the Everglades National Park. This project is a high priority for the Department. In addition to evaluating this project relative to the FY 2010 Budget, we are conducting a review to determine if the Mod Water Project may be a potential candidate for Recovery Act funding.

Our collaborative efforts with the Army Corps of Engineers continue and together we are evaluating requirements for modifications to the Tamiami Trail so that flows and distribution of water between the State-managed Water Conservation Areas and Everglades National Park may be further increased. Our actions are important to ensure that the momentum for this Everglades restoration project continues and are consistent with the language included in the Conference Report for the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, as well as the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which requires a plan for Tamiami Trail to achieve restored water flow between these areas.

I appreciate your long-standing interest and leadership in helping to restore the Everglades and I look forward to working with you on this issue. If you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Salazar



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-0912

ADAM H. PUTNAM
FLORIDA

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

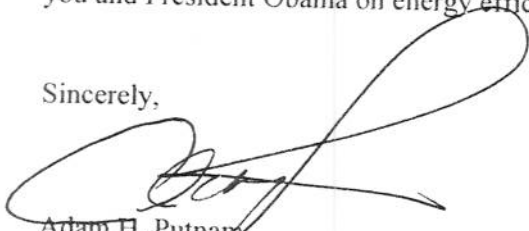
Dear Secretary Salazar:

I would like to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Department of the Interior.

Your efforts on the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee, among others, have exemplified your natural ability and passion for public service. I especially appreciated the comments you made during your confirmation hearing before the Committee on reducing dependence on foreign oil. I hope you will visit the many precious parks we have in Florida, especially the Florida Everglades.

As you approach the many challenges the Department is responsible for, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of service to you. I look forward to working with you and President Obama on energy efficiency in the near future.

Sincerely,



Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress

*I hope to see
you in Florida!*

21

ADAM H. PUTNAM
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA



442 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1252
(202) 226-0585 - FAX

650 EAST DAVIDSON ST
BARTOW, FL 33830
(863) 534-3530
(866) 534-3530
(863) 534-3559 - FAX

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

Fax Transmission

To: *Carrie Richardson*
for control to
OST. I will
call Rep. Putnam's
office and do
a phone ask.
M. Wilkins
6-25-09

TO: Mr. Darren R. Pete

FROM:

Washington Office

- Charles Cooper
- Brooke McKnight
- Karen Williams
- Kristene Henkelman
- Ashley Fishburn
- J.R. Smith
- J.D. Hooker
- Johnny Craig
-

District Office

- Cheryl Fulford
- Pam Fuller
- Josée Duchesneau
- Keith Rupp
- Amy Topol - Phone - 863/534-3530
amy.topol@mail.house.gov
- Kelly White
- Anne Bell
- Taunia Sebright

Fax: 202/208-4623

Pages: 6

Phone:

Date: 6-24-09

Re: Odom

CC:

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply
- Please Recycle

JUN 25 2009

ADAM H. PUTNAM

12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE



442 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-1252

650 EAST DAVIDSON STREET
BARTOW, FL 33830-4832
(883) 534-3630
1 (866) 534-3530

www.adamputnam.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 24, 2009

Mr. Darren R. Pete
Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
1849 C St NW Stop 4559
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Pete:

Enclosed is information received from my constituent, (b) (6)
(b) (6) is seeking assistance with obtaining an IIM Account with the
Office of the Special Trustee.

Any assistance your office can provide to (b) (6) would be greatly
appreciated. Please keep me advised by sending a reply to my district office at
650 East Davidson Street, Bartow, Florida 33830.

Thank you for your assistance.

May God bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam H. Putnam".

Adam Putnam
Member of Congress

AHP/at

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2009

Adam H. Putnam, MD
District Office

Privacy Authorization Form
Congressman Adam H. Putnam

Date: June 17, 2009

Name:

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-mail Address:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Check if you are interested in receiving periodic e-mail updates from Congressman Putnam.

Social Security #:

Date of Birth:

Other:

(b) (6)

I authorize Congressman Adam H. Putnam and his staff to contact appropriate agencies on my behalf. This is to comply with the Privacy Act of 1974, which provides that as of September 27, 1975, disclosures of information of a personal or confidential nature will no longer be permitted to third parties without my consent.

(b) (6)

Please Return To:

Congressman Adam H. Putnam
650 East Davidson Street
Bartow, Florida 33830
Toll Free: 866/534-3530
Phone: 863/534-3530
Fax: 863/534-3559
www.adamputnam.house.gov

Please explain your problem on the back of this form.

Explain your problem:

I was adopted out at birth,
I am full-blood Native American, my
birth father recently, passed
away on (b) (6) I want
to acquire my IIM Account
or "Individual Indian Money" from
the OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE.

I was told by (b) (6) at
the Call Center on-line to send
my documentation to (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

in OKLA. I sent it by

Certified Mail + (b) (6)

Signed for my Packet of Information.

I included my original birth certificate
by the opening of my adoption records

by (b) (6)

in Juvenile

Court in Okla. County OKC and also,
other enrollment Records + "Allotment

Records given to my ancestors by
President Harrison. (ALSO, Probates of
my birth mother's mother + father

caseworker:

(over)

I'm an enrolled member of the (b) (6)

(b) (6) My birth mother -

(b) (6) gave birth to me on (b) (6) at Deaconess Hospital in OKla. City, OKla. She was not married but she said my father was

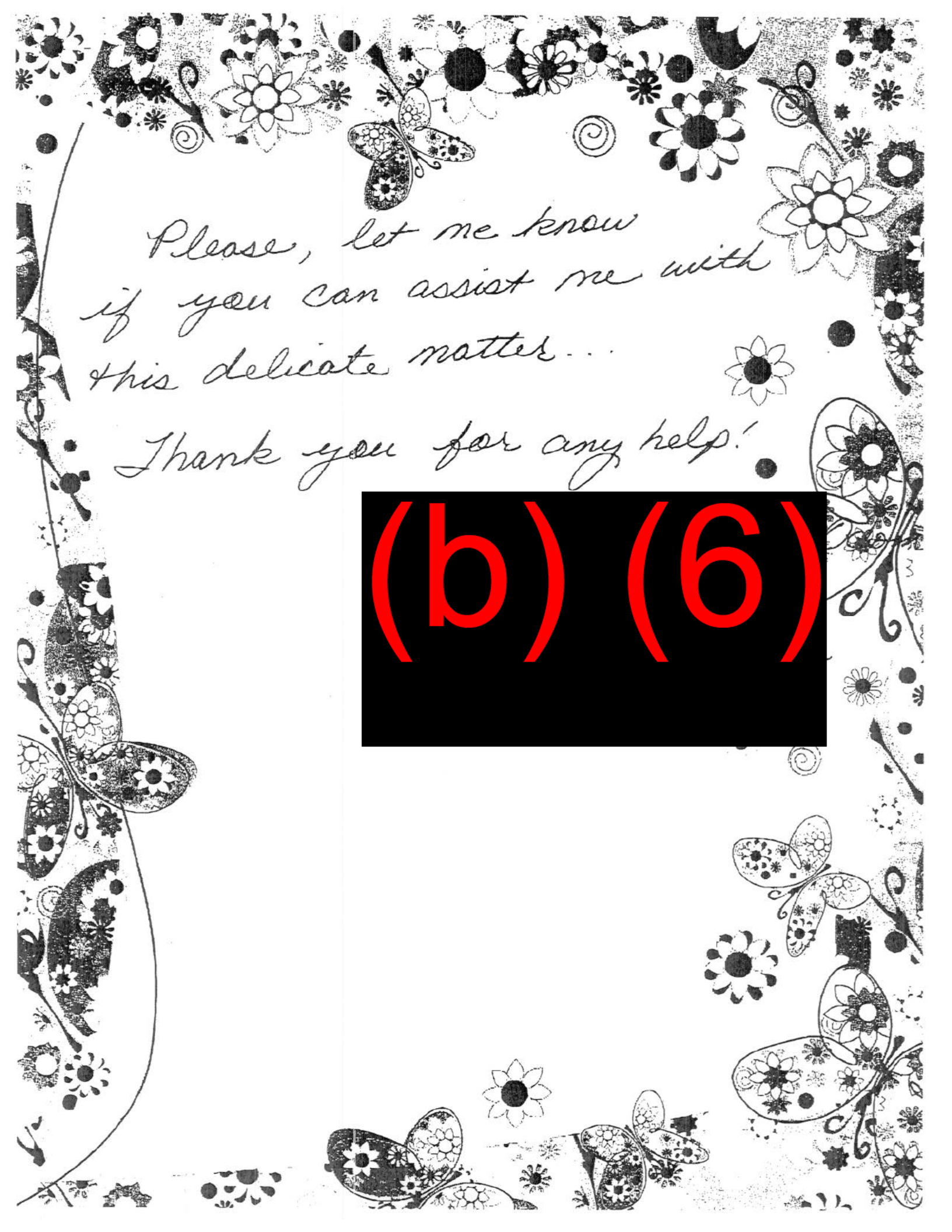
(b) (6) who joined the

Navy around the time I was conceived. He was a "3rd Class Seaman" in the Navy.

I was told it would be beneficial to me that I attend my birth father's probate hearing in 2-3 months, however, I would like someone to represent me in my stead... The administrative law

(b) (6) will handle the Probate hearing in Oklahoma. I have never met my birth mother (still living) nor my birth father. I was raised by (b) (6)

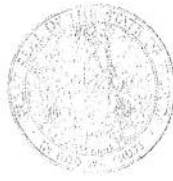
(b) (6) in OKla. City, OKla. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 19. My dad was a home-builder for over 50 yrs. I also, built homes in OKla. for 15 years. My degree is in Housing + Interior Design.

A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring various floral motifs, butterflies, and swirls. The border is composed of black and white patterns, including large flowers, smaller blossoms, and detailed butterfly illustrations.

Please, let me know
if you can assist me with
this delicate matter...

Thank you for any help!

(b) (6)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

THE CAPITOL

June 2, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

I write today regarding the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative generally and the proposed Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) specifically. The proposed refuge has generated a great deal of citizen interest, and I continue to receive a fair amount of correspondence on the proposal. I have indicated my support for maintaining working agricultural lands through the use of conservation easements entered into by willing landowners, but stressed that support for the development of the proposed refuge will require careful consideration of the ramifications of such a designation on both the lands being proposed for the NWR and the adjacent lands. Because the refuge is still in the planning stages, we have the opportunity to proceed deliberately and take into account the views and concerns of all affected parties. Toward that end I'd like to share some thoughts and observations with you.

Conservation easements provide an opportunity for farmers to help ensure a sustainable future for their operations while also providing significant environmental and economic benefits. They are important tools to help keep agriculture on the landscape by providing an incentive for families to keep land in production rather than breaking up large parcels for development. Because agricultural lands have some of the highest natural resource values of any private lands in Florida, there are also significant environmental benefits realized by ensuring that they remain working lands. These benefits include the protection of our valuable ground and surface water resources, critical habitat for endangered and threatened species, and wildlife corridors that connect migration and foraging pathways. These lands also provide open space that contributes to the overall high quality of life that residents of central Florida enjoy. Finally, I would also add that they provide economic benefits by remaining on the real estate tax rolls and continuing to provide jobs in our state.

The designation of a National Wildlife Refuge however holds very different implications than the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners. Based on correspondence I have received, one of the most significant public concerns is how the lands will be managed,



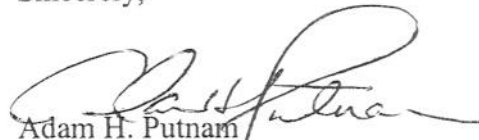
Secretary Ken Salazar
June 2, 2011
Page Two

particularly with regard to public access. My impression is that citizen support will rely upon resolving several issues associated with this concern. First of all, there is the basic issue of who will manage the purchased lands, and many within the state have expressed a preference for state agencies to be responsible for management. In regard to conservation easements on agricultural lands, the USDA NRCS has been effective working with both agricultural landowners and conservation organizations, and enjoy respect among state and federal agencies as well as the environmental community as a competent, trusted agency for managing conservation easements. Second, public access has been a primary issue for many, particularly the recreational community. Public access to and use of any future refuge lands should be maximized to the extent possible to include traditional recreational uses including hiking, camping, hunting and fishing, just to name a few. Given the history of this issue in Florida it will be crucial to fully and openly engage the public and attempt to resolve it in a way that will garner wide support. For this reason it is critical that there be ample opportunity for public input through the use of public hearings.

You should also be aware that many have expressed concern regarding the potential use of eminent domain proceedings to acquire lands. I strongly encourage you to provide an upfront commitment that lands will only be acquired from willing sellers. In addition, many are concerned regarding the projected costs of fee simple land acquisition and question whether the use of public funds for this purpose is fiscally sound. Given the current fiscal climate, this concern is justified and it underscores the need for building broad public support for the proposal.

I have directed my staff to monitor the progress of the Everglades Headwaters proposal and to work with all the state and federal agencies involved in the effort to ensure that these issues are addressed. We are committed to ensuring that the proposed refuge is compatible with agricultural land use, helping to maintain the production of a high quality and wholesome food supply for Florida and our nation while still providing the array of environmental benefits that accompany good agricultural stewardship. We look forward to working with you to accomplish that objective.

Sincerely,



Adam H. Putnam

502547 Commissioner of Agriculture

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2011 JUN 20 PM 2:47 S



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM
THE CAPITOL

July 24, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Last fall, the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of New World Screwworm for the first time in the Florida Keys. The New World Screwworm had not been found in Florida in 50 years, and the last time it was present in Florida, it devastated the livestock industry. To this day, the mere mention of the New World Screwworm sends shivers down the backs of ranchers.

Thanks to our collaborative efforts to implement an aggressive eradication program, we successfully eradicated the New World Screwworm. We are grateful for your partnership and swift response in these efforts. We prevented the spread of the New World Screwworm to the mainland – with only one detection on a stray dog in Homestead, Florida. However, we lost approximately 20-percent of the Key deer population, an endangered species found only in the Florida Keys. Despite this loss, thanks to the tireless work by federal, state and local leaders, as well as numerous community members, many Key deer were saved.

After months of steadfast efforts to eradicate the New World screwworm, including regular sterile fly releases, the Animal Health Check Point, community education, events and more, in late March, we were able to declare Florida screwworm-free. In all, more than 200 million sterile flies were released and more than 17,000 animals were checked at the Animal Health Check Point. Thanks to your dedication, expertise and professionalism, working together we achieved our goal and protected Florida's \$10 billion livestock industry.

Thank you for your work in this critical eradication program that protected Florida agriculture and saved one of our world's treasures, the endangered Key deer.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MAY 1 2017

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

003066
December 12, 2006

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2006 DEC 19 AM 11:36

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

We are writing to address the current crisis facing Florida's National Wildlife Refuges. National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) face a \$102 million budget shortfall, which could result in the reduction of 69 staff positions. This insufficient funding will leave 12 refuges in Florida without staff, and this shortfall prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from adequately managing and restoring wildlife habitat, safely maintaining facilities, and providing quality recreational programs. For example:

- Pelican Island NWR in Indian River County, the nation's first refuge, will no longer be able to provide environmental and outreach programs.
- Ding Darling NWR in Sanibel Island, will no longer be able to staff the visitor center on a regular basis and provide educational programs.
- Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR, commonly known as the gateway to the Everglades, will undergo a reduction in their water quality monitoring and invasive plant control programs.
- Merritt Island NWR will undergo a reduction in their scrub jay management program.
- Florida Keys NWR Complex will suffer adverse affects to the sea turtle survey.
- Crystal River NWR will have to reduce manatee surveys, which compromises the Refuge's ability to protect manatees.
- Chassahowitzka NWR will undergo a reduction to the Whooping Crane Recovery program.

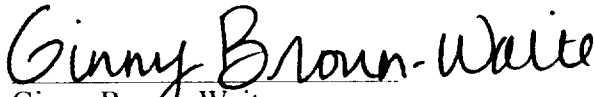
Because of major funding shortfalls for staff, our refuges are no longer able to support their most basic mission. The Refuge System in Florida needs a \$575,000 increase each year just to retain current services. An example of the impact on the local community is evidenced at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. For every dollar spent in the refuge's budget, approximately \$7 is generated in recreational expenditures to the local economy, and over \$500,000 of local tax revenues are generated through recreational expenditures.

Again, we urge you to increase funding for Florida refuges when you make your Fiscal Year 2008 funding request. Without adequate funding for our refuges, the wildlife that


depend on these important habitats and the public that values these treasures for recreation and education will suffer.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

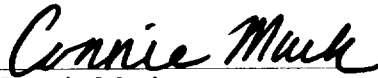
Sincerely,



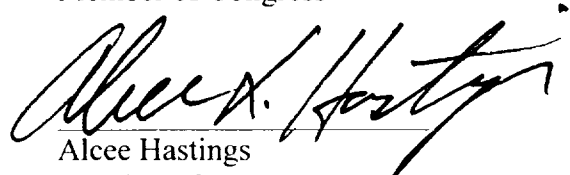
Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress



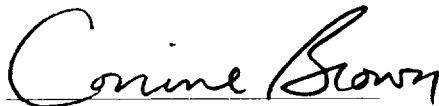
Adam Putnam
Member of Congress



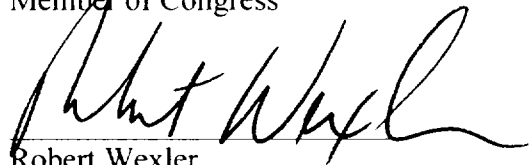
Connie Mack
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman-Schulz
Member of Congress



Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress