



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Rick Scott
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter to the President regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works' (Corps) South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program and, specifically, sustained annual budget requests to Congress of \$200 million in SFER construction funding. I am responding on his behalf. I appreciate the time you took to share your views and interest.

Just as with President Trump's previous budgets, the FY 2020 Budget, *A Budget for a Better America*, was written with the everyday American in mind. Across the country, hardworking taxpayers have to balance their household budgets, find ways to do more with less, and save for the future. This year, President Trump directed the Federal government to do the same by requesting most executive departments and agencies to cut their budgets by 5 percent. The Budget reflects the President's priorities to ensure that all Americans can benefit from the nation's historic economic boom and continues the pro-job creation policies, keeps taxes low, combats the opioid epidemic, protects our veterans, defends our nation, secures our borders, and keeps the Administration's promises to support working families and protect seniors' Medicare and Social Security benefits.

The Administration understands the importance of the Florida Everglades and supports its restoration. In the Budget, the Administration proposes funding for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. Specifically, the Budget includes \$63.255 million for SFER construction and \$5.454 million for SFER operations and maintenance. The Budget also includes \$56 million in Department of the Interior funding for Everglades-related activities. On May 13th, 2019 the President transmitted an FY 2020 budget amendment increasing the total FY 2020 funding request for SFER by \$136.745 million for a total of \$200 million.

Finally, President Trump's FY 2020 Budget builds on the tremendous progress we have made over the past few years and provides a clear roadmap for the Congress to bring Federal spending and debt under control. We must protect future generations from Washington's habitual deficit spending.

I look forward to working with you throughout the Budget process. Thank you again for your letter. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at LegislativeAffairs@omb.eop.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vought", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell T. Vought
Acting Director

Identical Letter Sent to: The Honorable Marco Rubio and Governor Ron DeSantis