June 28, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army–Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

On behalf of the business community of Southeast Florida, we wanted to echo the letter sent to you on June 25, 2019 by members of the Florida Congressional delegation regarding the restudy of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF Project). We believe that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will find value in the C&SF Project as they begin work to identify studies and projects eligible for funding through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019. The business community believes this study is essential component of tackling our future water management challenges.

Today, we recognize that the C&SF Project still serves as the central means for protecting the over six million residents of Southeast Florida from flooding. At the same time, changes in the physical environment, especially increased rainfall intensity and rising seas, substantially strain the existing system. This challenge is not just limited to Southeast Florida, as vulnerabilities have been identified across the 16-county South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) service area, including flooding, storm surge impacts, and exposed water supplies.

As stated in the letter, it is imperative that USACE work in conjunction with the SFWMD to revise the system so that it can cope with and maintain levels of service for current and future flood protection. While numerous plans and investments are underway locally and regionally, we recognize that our federal partners are critical to the resilience of the C&SF Project.

We also want to thank our delegation in Washington, DC for their leadership on this issue. We will continue to monitor this vital issue for our community and look forward to working together to find solutions to Southeast Florida’s aging water management infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Christine Barney, Chair
South Florida Business Council

Jack Seiler, Chair-Elect
South Florida Business Council

Dan Lindblade, CAE
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

Alfred Sanchez, President & CEO
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

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cc: LTG Todd T. Semonite
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