

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Rubio and Representative Gimenez,

On behalf of the recreational fishing and boating community, thank you for your leadership on the South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act (S.3676 and H.R.6771). This legislation will reform and bolster the South Florida Geographic Program (SFGP) to support critical ecosystem restoration and monitoring efforts across the aquatic ecosystems of southern Florida.

Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World, with 4 million anglers contributing nearly \$14 billion to the economy and supporting 119,678 jobs. Conservation and access to vibrant fisheries are extremely important to anglers.

Many challenges face South Florida's aquatic ecosystems. Despite its historically modest funding level, SFGP has provided tremendous value in helping to address the immediate and emerging ecological pressures and threats to nearshore waters, bays, estuaries, beaches, and coral reefs. However, to help fully address these challenges, the program's scope and available resources must be expanded. Not only will the South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act ensure that more funds reach an expanded geographic area, your legislation will facilitate better interagency cooperation and improve environmental literacy for students through an education grant program. This will help ensure restoration projects are effectively coordinated while increasing public awareness about the importance of the South Florida ecosystem.

The South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act will advance essential conservation efforts in South Florida. Not only is this exciting legislation for marine life and anglers, but also for local economies that can benefit from the spending power of anglers. We are grateful for your commitment to improving marine habitats and increasing recreational fishing opportunities through the South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act. We are ready to assist you as you work toward the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
Angler Action Foundation  
Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society (B.A.S.S.)  
BoatU.S.  
Bonefish and Tarpon Trust  
Captains For Clean Water  
Center for Sportfishing Policy  
Coastal Conservation Association

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation  
International Game Fish Association  
Major League Fishing  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Professional Anglers Association  
Recreational Fishing Alliance  
Wildlife Forever

Cc: The Honorable Byron Donalds  
The Honorable Brian Mast  
The Honorable Bill Posey  
The Honorable John Rutherford  
The Honorable Maria Salazar  
The Honorable Greg Steube  
The Honorable Michael Waltz