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September 11, 2013

Senator Joe Negron  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Commission  
201 Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

**RE: Endorsement of DEP Budget request for the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin**

Dear Senator Negron:

On behalf of Audubon Florida, I endorse the Department of Environmental Protection's budget request for \$2,769,525 for South Florida Water Management District projects to improve the water management in the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin. If additional resources can be found, funding should be dedicated to water farming and dispersed water management programs throughout the Northern Everglades watershed.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee.

Sincerely,

Eric Draper  
Executive Director

Cc:

Members and staff of the Joint Legislative Budget Commission