AMENDMENT NO.________ Calendar No._____

Purpose: To express the sense of Congress relating to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.


H.R. 5895

AMENDMENT N° 3066

development ending Sep-

By: Rubio

To: Amor No 2910

and

introduced

posed by (No. 2910)

Viz:

1 At the end of title I of division A, add the following:

2 Sec. 1____. (a) Congress finds that—

3 (1) the restoration of the Everglades, as described in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan authorized by title VI of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–541; 114 Stat. 2680) (referred to in this section as the “Plan”), is the most ambitious environmental restoration program in history;
(2) the overarching objectives of the Plan are the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection;

(3) the Plan should continue to be implemented as authorized—

(A) to ensure—

(i) the protection of water quality in the south Florida ecosystem;

(ii) the reduction of the loss of fresh water from the south Florida ecosystem; and

(iii) the improvement of the environment of the south Florida ecosystem; and

(B) to achieve and maintain the benefits to the natural system and human environment described in the Plan; and

(4) the equal partnership between the Federal Government and the State of Florida remains essential to accomplishing the objectives of the Plan.

(b) It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the discharge of excess water by the Corps of Engineers from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and the Indian River La-
goon represents a significant loss of fresh water from the South Florida ecosystem;

(2) the diversion of those Lake Okeechobee discharges to Plan projects or features like the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir, designed to store and treat water prior to release into the Central Everglades, is an essential source of fresh water for meeting the objectives of the Plan; and

(3) the Plan authorizes a 50/50 Federal-State cost share for all aspects of congressionally authorized restoration projects, including water quality project features or components.