



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

October 5, 2011

Mr. Chris Doley
Division Chief
NOAA Restoration Center (F/HC3)
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3, 14th Floor F/HC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Division Chief Doley:

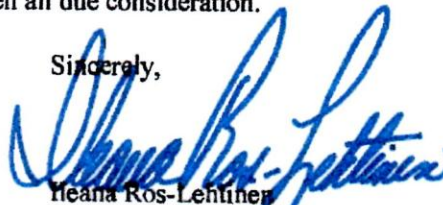
I write to express my support of the Miami River Fund, Inc.'s (MRFI) application to the 2012 Community Based Marine Debris Prevention & Removal Project Grant. MRFI continues to implement restoration efforts along the Miami River in order to improve the natural environment, marine life, and navigation while enhancing the quality of life in the area.

MRFI's proposal includes efforts to remove derelict vessels from the Miami River and its tributaries; to increase the working hours of the Scavenger Decontamination Vessel, including removal and disposal of marine debris, water de-contamination and oxygenation; and increase the frequency of volunteer beautification efforts. The MRFI also plans to increase the amount of environmental educational riverboat tours to students and environmental organizations. These educational efforts promote pollution prevention, waste reduction, as well as the protection of marine life and endangered fauna and flora.

According to MRFI, these efforts will create additional publicly accessible parks and green spaces in underutilized areas, increase tree canopy, remove debris and litter, and ultimately beautify the Miami River Corridor and promote an eco-friendly environment.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, I offer my support for the Miami River Fund's proposal and ask that it be given all due consideration.

Sincerely,



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL:jhs
Cc: Miami River Fund, Inc
Cc: Director Patricia Montanio
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Habitat Conservation
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3, 14th Floor F/HC
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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