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SEP 14 2009

TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Michael J. Busha, Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994

Subject: Reintroduction of Amtrak Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor in Florida

Dear Mr. Busha:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Cocoa Beach Area Hotel and Lodging Association regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. Brevard County was formed historically with the introduction of Flagler's railroad in the early 1900s, and our community flourished with the easy interconnectivity provided by rail transit.

Amtrak passenger service along the coastline is a missing piece of the transportation network in Brevard County. Passenger train service would greatly expand tourist access at a time when our area sorely needs it. In addition, it would improve interconnectivity, and expand quality of life opportunities for our residents. Transit is also a critical component of a sustainable transportation network, one that will help promote Florida's green economy and improve energy independence.

The 15 member hotels of the Cocoa Beach Area Hotel and Lodging Association resoundingly requests your office prioritize the Amtrak project (termed the "Intercity Rail Component of the FEC Corridor Project"), from Jacksonville to Miami, as part of the Federal economic stimulus package for the State of Florida. We appreciate your leadership in helping secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Tom Williamson
President
Cocoa Beach Area Hotel and Lodging Association

cc: Charlie Crist, Governor, State of Florida
Stefanie Kopelousos, Secretary of Transportation, Florida Department of Transportation