



September 30, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
State of Florida, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

On behalf of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and its university, economic development and high tech industry partners, I offer my enthusiastic support for the City of Cocoa Office of Economic Development and its dedication to reintroducing Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast.

The Florida High Tech Corridor Council was established by the Legislature in 1996 to attract, retain and grow high tech industry and to help develop the workforce to support those industries in the 23-county service areas of the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida. This unique economic development partnership merges the strengths of these three world-class universities and industry partners to help build the Corridor and our state into a globally recognized place where innovation is cultivated and thriving, especially in our region's growing life sciences and biomedical industry.

The introduction of passenger rail service will support our long-term goals by expanding tourist access, increasing economic development opportunities, improving interconnectivity, and expanding quality of life opportunities for residents of Brevard County and the surrounding region.

The Florida High Tech Corridor Council believes in the need for projects like Amtrak passenger service along Florida's east coast to improve and expand Florida's sustainable transportation network while helping to promote a green economy and improve energy independence.

Sincerely,

Randy Berridge
President

cc: Mary Sharpe, Manager, City of Cocoa Office of Economic Development



September 30, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Kopelousos
Secretary of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Kopelousos:

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Randy Berridge
President

cc: Mary Sharpe, Manager, City of Cocoa Office of Economic Development

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