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TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

September 18, 2009

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

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

Dear Stephanie Kopelousos:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism 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 expand tourist access, expand economic development opportunities, 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.

Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Varley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Varley,
Executive Director

cc: Michael Busha, Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Space Coast Office of Tourism

430 Brevard Ave. • Suite #150 • Cocoa Village, FL 32922 • Phone: 321.433.4470 • Fax: 321.433.4476 • 877.57.BEACH

www.space-coast.com