

Dear Florida Realtor,

Sunrail, the commuter rail proposal slated to bring jobs and business to Florida, will be considered by the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee on Monday, April 20.

SB 1212, co-sponsored by Senators Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs) and Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando), allows the Florida Department of Transportation to buy 61.5 miles of existing rail lines from CSX Corporation. The commuter rail line would run between DeLand and Poinciana in Central Florida, but is seen as a first step for bringing mass transit systems to Jacksonville, Tampa Bay, and other cities in our state. The bill would also authorize a "no-fault" system for accidents on the rail line, which would split liability for rail accidents between CSX and the state. The indemnification policy in this bill is consistent with what is already in existence for South Florida's Tri-Rail system, and others across the country.

Approximately 13,500 new construction and operations jobs and more than \$1.5 billion worth of economic stimulus could be realized within months once the measure is passed. Over the next 30 years, SunRail will have a total, statewide benefit of more than 250,000 jobs and nearly 9 billion dollars in economic activity.

We are entering the final two weeks of session and this proposal is reaching a crucial stage and must be advanced soon in order to make it to the Senate floor. We cannot afford to let this measure and the substantial economic development opportunities it provides die in the legislative process.

This commuter rail proposal would leverage federal funding and create thousands of jobs throughout the state. The Florida House is ready to hear the bill, which means the bill's passage is largely contingent upon the Senate's actions.

As a follow-up to our successful Great American Realtors Days this week in Tallahassee, let your Realtor voice be heard on this incredibly important FAR priority issue - contact your Senator TODAY and urge support of this bill.

If you would like to watch this committee live on Monday, please click on the following link:
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/HouseCalendar/broadcast.aspx>

Thank You!

Cynthia Shelton
2009 President
Florida Association of Realtors
