



March 2, 2009

The Honorable Lee Constantine  
Senator  
Florida Legislature  
418 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Constantine:

I wanted to contact you regarding SunRail, which is critical not only to Central Florida but to the state as well.

SunRail presents immediate, short-term, and long-term economic stimulus throughout the entire state during a time when unemployment is skyrocketing and revenues are plummeting. Short-term, more than 13,000 jobs statewide are anticipated as SunRail takes shape, including work related to transit-oriented development near the stations. Long term, a recent economic impact study showed that construction, maintenance and operation of the system is expected to generate \$981 million in commercial business sales related to the project.

I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our citizens, funding partners and business leaders to ensure this endeavor is a success and ask you to place this letter of support into the record of the proceedings.

As LYNX' Chief Executive Officer, I am responsible for providing transit in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, but as our region has grown, LYNX has been asked by Polk, Lake and Volusia counties to provide them with transit links.

Commuter rail characterizes the true meaning of partnerships. The federal government, state and several local governments are working in cooperation. LYNX has been proactive working to provide bus service specifically for providing feeder service for commuter rail passengers.

Thanks to the leadership of many elected officials and community leaders, this long term strategic investment will reduce congestion by moving commuters from our failing road system. Rail will also reduce our dependence on foreign oil and improve the state's return from federal gas taxes.

If this project fails, the greatest consequence will be the collateral damage to other projects. Washington will not fund another like it for a generation.

Sincerely,

Linda Watson,  
Chief Executive Officer  
LYNX

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