

From: Jennifer Doerfel

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To: fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov; gardiner.andy.web@flsenate.gov; dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov; storms.ronda.web@flsenate.gov; portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov; hill.tony.web@flsenate.gov; smith.chris.web@flsenate.gov; atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Subject: Tampa Bay Builders Association Supports Senate Bill 1212 and SunRail

To: The Honorable Members of the Senate Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee

The Tampa Bay Builders Association would like to convey our support for Senate Bill 1212 and the Central Florida SunRail project, and ask that the Senate Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee consider and approve this important legislation without further delay.

Now is the time to lead in support of a statewide rail network, a critical part of our state's future economic growth. Senate Bill 1212 provides a foundation for that network in Central Florida, by allowing the SunRail project to move forward as planned. This will accelerate transit plans in the Tampa Bay area, and the ultimate inter-connection of our economic / urban employments centers.

Moreover, the SunRail project is "shovel-ready" and will create needed jobs and spur quality, transit-oriented development along the planned corridor.

With Senate Bill 360, you sent a strong message in support of our urban areas and multi-modal transportation. Senate Bill 1212 is the logical next step, a step that is also critical to Florida's success in securing limited federal transportation funding.

With over 1,300 members, the Tampa Bay Builders Associations is one of the largest organizations representing the residential and commercial construction industry in the nation. Job creation initiatives and regional transportation alternatives are top priorities, and we ask for your support in the passage of Senate Bill 1212.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Doerfel
Executive Vice President
Tampa Bay Builders Association
2918 West Kennedy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33609
813-873-1000