



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

In December of 2009, members of the Florida Legislature voted to create the Florida Rail Enterprise and the Florida Statewide Passenger Rail Commission. The enterprise could have the ability (pursuant to s. 341.822, Florida Statutes) to independently move forward with Florida's plans for high speed rail. Please give us the time necessary to work with the enterprise prior to re-allocating Florida's funds to another state.

This project would create real jobs, cleaner and smarter transportation, and true economic development for Floridians. The international consortiums who have been investing time and money while waiting for the chance to respond to a request for a proposal deserve that opportunity. Politics should have no place in the future of Florida's transportation, as evidenced by this letter of bipartisan support.

Handwritten signature of Senator Anthony Hill.

Senator Anthony Hill, 1st District

Handwritten signature of Senator Greg Evers.

Senator Greg Evers, 2nd District

Handwritten signature of Senator Stephen Wise.

Senator Stephen Wise, 5th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Bill Montford.

Senator Bill Montford, 6th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Andy Gardiner.

Senator Andy Gardiner, 9th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Mike Fasano.

Senator Mike Fasano, 11th District

Senator Dennis Jones, 13th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Paula Dockery.

Senator Paula Dockery, 15th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Jack Latvala.

Senator Jack Latvala, 16th District

Handwritten signature of Senator Arthenia Joyner.

Senator Arthenia Joyner, 18th District



Senator Gary Siplin, 19th District



Senator Mike Bennett, 21st District



Senator David Simmons, 22nd District



Senator Nancy Detert, 23rd District



Senator Thad Altman, 24th District



Senator Elyn Bogdanoff, 25th District



Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, 27th District



Senator Chris Smith, 29th District



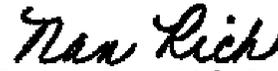
Senator Maria Sachs, 30th District



Senator Eleanor Sobel, 31st District



Senator Jeremy Ring, 32nd District



Senator Nan Rich, 34th District



Senator Gwen Margolis, 35th District



Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, 36th District



Senator Rene Garcia, 40th District

The 2010 Florida Statutes, Title XXVI
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION Chapter 341
PUBLIC TRANSIT View Entire Chapter
341.822 Powers and duties.

(1) The enterprise shall locate, plan, design, finance, construct, maintain, own, operate, administer, and manage the high-speed rail system in the state.

(2)(a) In addition to the powers granted to the department, the enterprise has full authority to exercise all powers granted to it under this chapter. Powers shall include, but are not limited to, the ability to plan, construct, maintain, repair, and operate a high-speed rail system, to acquire corridors, and to coordinate the development and operation of publicly funded passenger rail systems in the state.

(b) It is the express intention of ss. 341.8201-341.842 that the enterprise be authorized to plan, develop, own, purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire, demolish, construct, improve, relocate, equip, repair, maintain, operate, and manage the high-speed rail system; to expend funds to publicize, advertise, and promote the advantages of using the high-speed rail system and its facilities; and to cooperate, coordinate, partner, and contract with other entities, public and private, to accomplish these purposes.

(3) The enterprise shall have the authority to employ procurement methods available to the department under chapters 255, 287, 334, and 337, or otherwise in accordance with law. The enterprise may also solicit proposals and, with legislative approval as evidenced by approval of the project in the department's work program, enter into agreements with private entities, or consortia thereof, for the building, operation, ownership, or financing of the high-speed rail system.

(4) The executive director of the enterprise shall appoint staff, who shall be exempt from part II of chapter 110.

(5) The powers conferred upon the enterprise under ss. 341.8201-341.842 shall be in addition and supplemental to the existing powers of the department, and these powers shall not be construed as repealing any provision of any other law, general or local, but shall supersede such other laws that are inconsistent with the exercise of the powers provided under ss. 341.8201-341.842 and provide a complete method for the exercise of such powers granted.

(6) Any proposed rail enterprise project or improvement shall be developed in accordance with the Florida Transportation Plan and the work program under s. 339.135.

History.—s. 2, ch. 2001-153; s. 32, ch. 2002-20; s. 13, ch. 2009-271.