

FILE



**Representative
MaryLynn Magar**
District 82

**Florida House of
Representatives**
Tallahassee, Florida

COMMITTEES:
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SELECT COMMITTEES:
Patient Protection and Affordable
Care Act
Health Care Workforce
Innovation

May 22, 2014

Mr. Donald C. Robinson, President and CEO
All Aboard Florida
2855 Le Jeune Road
4th Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Over the past few months I have been paying close attention to the All Aboard Florida (AAF) rail project to gain a better understanding of the potential benefits and challenges it may bring to the people of Florida and specifically to those in my district. I believe expanding our transportation options is positive for a growing and vibrant state. However, we cannot do so at the expense of the communities along the train's path, which were built by investment and hard work over many years by your fellow Floridians.

I have concerns that the current plan for AAF will disrupt the Treasure Coast and jeopardize the well-being to our residents. I would request additional information in regards to the many concerns regarding public safety that have been discussed at every AAF meeting I have attended.

I recognize the historic value of train travel in Florida and the right-of-way corridors that pre-date many of the roads and other facilities in this region. I believe strongly in private property rights as a bedrock principle of American enterprise, although I also highly regard the rights of those nearby. This sentiment is reflected by homeowners associations, zoning laws and environmental protections. We must recognize that the value of neighboring properties have a direct influence over one another and we must operate according to certain reasonable expectations. We do not build manufacturing facilities next to beachfront residential property. We do not build nightclubs next to schools.

Will the frequency of the All Aboard trains, especially the Loxahatchee River drawbridge crossing at Jupiter Inlet and the St. Lucie River, render boat traffic nearly impossible? Both commercial and pleasure boating are key components of the economy in these areas.

REPLY TO:

- 11704 SE Dixie Hwy., Hobe Sound, Florida 33455 (772) 545-3481 FAX: (772) 545-3483
- 1003 The Capitol, 424 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 717-5082

House Website: www.myfloridahouse.gov

Will W. Weatherford
Speaker of the House

Marti Coley
Speaker Pro Tempore

Will an additional 32 trains per day impede ambulance traffic from our neighborhoods, many of which are located directly across from emergency facilities but which are separated by train tracks? Are there contingency plans to move trains out of sensitive crossings in case there are mechanical failures?

How disruptive will the noise of an additional 32 trains per day be for the neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, and other havens along our Treasure Coast?

What about the immediate economic impact to these communities? At the current time there are no plans, nor are there any future guarantees, from AAF to make stops along their route in these areas.

I pose that the questions regarding these concerns are serious and certainly reasonable for the communities and citizens who are going to be affected by AAF.

I am writing to you today to raise these concerns, hoping that you have already addressed these matters internally and can explain your plans to me and my constituents more thoroughly and to our satisfaction. We must preserve the investments made all along the Treasure Coast and not disregard how important consensus is for transportation projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

MaryLynn

Representative MaryLynn Magar
District 82,

cc: Michael Reininger, President, CDO, All Aboard Florida
Tom Bausch, Chairman, Martin MPO
Michael Buscha, Chairman, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Kim Delany, SDC, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Abby Brennan, Mayor, Village of Tequesta
Sarah Heard, Chair, Martin County Commission
Andrew Lukasik, Town Manager, Town of Jupiter
Karen Golanka, Mayor, Jupiter
Hal Valeche, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Taryn Kryzda, Martin County Administrator
Paul Nicoletti, City Manager, City of Stuart