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Florida NOT All Aboard

February 23, 2015

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington D.C. 20590
ATT: Mr. John Winkle
Ms. Catherine Dobbs

Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl.
32399-0001

Dear Mr. Winkle, Ms. Dobbs and Governor Scott

As you are aware the All Aboard Florida train program will be constructed in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Construction has started on portions of the project.

The counties to the north of us have expressed their concern about the project and its adverse impact on the residents of Florida. They have committed about 4 million dollars to fight the train coming through at its present proposed location.

The following are some of the serious concerns we have about the project.

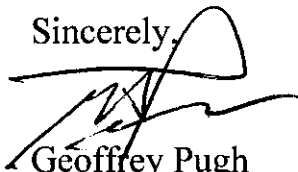
1. They are projecting a passenger train every half hour and 32 trains a day between 7AM and 9PM. I doubt anyone believes this is an economically feasible undertaking. Although the train is eventually supposed to go to Orlando at present it won't go past Palm Beach County. If the counties to our north get their way it never will. It'll

probably run empty most of the time. One main concern with this schedule is the probability of constant traffic congestion. Although the train is supposed to go through the intersection in less than a minute the frequency will present a constant traffic problem.

2. Although there will be additional quiet zones they will only be at the major intersections so the horns will be blowing at all the minor crossings much more often.
3. The speed of the trains is a major concern. They are supposed to stay below 80 mph from Palm Beach County south. However, this is still very fast for populated areas. Should there be a derailment at that speed the results will be devastating. There was an FEC train derailment in Rivera Beach recently as well as others around the country. The speed combined with the frequency is a recipe for serious problems. Other high speed trains around the world are in rural areas and many are elevated. This will probably be the only one at these speeds through a populated area.
4. As Amtrac can't make money there's absolutely no reason to believe this will be a profit making endeavor. The consensus is that this is a ploy to increase the movement of freight that is anticipated to come through Miami. If so the freight trains will be slower and much longer and create a much greater traffic congestion problem.

These are some of the major concerns about this project. There are others but these are sufficient to cause a great concern with the residents of Florida. I realize there has not been a large push to stop the project in the three counties. However, the concerns are very real and I believe will, in the long run, outweigh any economic benefit the area may see. We believe this project was conceived with profit in mind at the expense of the quality of life in southeast Florida. I hope you will take these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Pugh

Mayor, Town of Ocean Ridge