

Alexander P. Grantt
11851 East Terry Street
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
November 29, 2010

Honorable Gary Aubuchon, Representative
Florida House District 74
Chairman Lee County Legislative Delegation
3501 Del Prado Blvd., Suite 305
Cape Coral, FL 33904-7223

Dear Chairman Aubuchon,

As a former local government official, I would request three minutes of the State Legislative Delegation time for my annual plea for the restoration of daily passenger train service between the Lee/Collier County line to the Lakeland Amtrak station and preferably to the new Amtrak Autotrain station in Sanford, Florida.

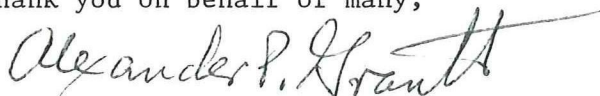
The State of Florida Department of Transportation must make certain that the CSX owned and Seminole Gulf Railway leased track is reserved in perpetuity as a rail corridor for Southwest Florida.

In order to upgrade the present rail trackage to non high speed long distance passenger rail service the State of Florida needs to reserve about \$70,000,000 for rail track infrastructure improvements and new passenger stations in Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, (Punta Gorda has a historic rail station) and Arcadia along the 78 mile Seminole Gulf Railway leased rail corridor extending to CSX rail tracks to Fort Green Springs in Hardee County where rail track is maintained to excellent standards.

Finally the State of Florida needs to purchase one head-end powered locomotive, one to two coaches, a food service car and at least two autocarrier cars for daily passenger rail service between the North Naples/Bonita Springs area and the Lakeland, Kissimmee, Orlando, Winter Park, and Sanford Amtrak stations in Central Florida.

With an increasing elderly population, popular tourist destination, heighten airline security alerts, and being in a hurricane evacuation zone for six months of each year makes such an investment by the State of Florida a necessity and not a luxury.

Thank you on behalf of many,



Alexander P. Grantt, member of
Bonita Springs City Council 2004-2008