



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 606-5302 www.leoncountyfl.gov

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HERBERT W.A. THIELE
County Attorney

April 28, 2008

Congressman Allen Boyd
1227 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressman Boyd,

I am writing to ask for your assistance to encourage CSX Transportation Inc. to restore the railroad track that once connected the longest railroad in the history of the United States extending from Los Angeles, CA to Jacksonville, FL. Several sections of this track were destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and southern Mississippi. It is vital that this track be repaired for Amtrak to restore its services through key destinations in the southeast including Tallahassee and Jacksonville.

According to a press release from CSX Transportation Inc. on January 16, 2006, "the company has been working to restore six major bridges, more than 40 miles of track, and its major rail yard in New Orleans." However, it appears that the restoration of the track has been set aside and Leon County has not received a clear explanation from Amtrak or CSX about the future of this track. Please understand that this track once helped the economies of the southeast region and offered alternative modes of transportation to area residents. With the price of gas skyrocketing and the uncertainty of timeliness in the airline industry, the citizens of Florida need alternative ways to travel for commercial and recreational purposes.

CSX and Amtrak once provided a valuable service to local residents so the Board of County Commissioners encourages Amtrak to restore services once CSX repairs the bridges destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The Board urges your support and continued leadership on this regional need.

Congressman Boyd
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Sincerely,



Jane G. Sauls
Chairman, Leon County Commission

Cc: Leon County Congressional Delegation
Parwez Alam, Leon County Administrator
Ken Morris, Leon County Assistant to the County Administrator
Alexander Kummant, President and CEO, Amtrak
Michael Ward, Chairman, President and CEO of CSX
Phil Bangert, Patton Boggs
Mayra Martinez-Fernandez, Patton Boggs