

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

April 14, 2017

Dear

Thank you for contacting me regarding rail transportation in Florida.

Rail safety is important to me, particularly at highway-rail grade crossings. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, there were 86 collisions and 14 fatalities at highway-rail crossings in Florida in 2016 alone. In the past, I have supported significant funding to improve safety at highway-rail crossings, including new technology to prevent crashes.

Rail transportation can be an important way to help relieve congestion and move people quickly. That's why I previously supported the high speed rail project that would have traveled between Tampa and Orlando, to eventually extend to Miami. Unfortunately, in 2011, Florida turned down Federal money awarded to construct the high speed rail segment. Under the project, high speed rail would have traveled along Florida's highways and inland from coastal communities.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I will continue to work to improve rail safety as Congress considers ways to modernize our transportation system.

I appreciate you taking the time to write to me, and I will share your concerns with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

P.S. From time to time, I compile electronic news briefs highlighting key issues and hot topics of particular importance to Floridians. If you'd like to receive these eBriefs, visit <http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill/newsletter>