

6 April 2009

via mail and email

Mr. Lee Chira
Treasurer, FHSRA
Lee Chira & Associates
800 N. Highland Ave., Ste 200
Orlando, FL 32803

Dear Lee:

Last Friday evening I was listening to the news reports about President Obama's trip to Europe. Much of the focus of the report was on a town hall meeting in Strasbourg. He again stressed his intent to build a high speed rail system in the U.S. He said that he was envious of high speed rail systems in Europe.

As I have mentioned to you before, I recall his repeated references to building high speed rail during the Democratic primary campaign and in the general election campaign. He has likened his vision for high speed rail to President Eisenhower's vision for an interstate highway network. I believe he is devoutly serious about this and will succeed if he can serve two four-year terms.

His commitment in the stimulus plan of \$8 billion to get started with high speed rail is the first for any U.S. president. It is also reported that next year's budget will have an addition \$5 billion in it for high speed rail. It is disappointing, however, to see a lack of enthusiasm on the part of Governor Crist to participate in this vision for future generations of U.S. citizens.

You are to be commended for your work as Chairman of the Florida High Speed Rail Authority in attempting to enlist the Governor in the noble effort. You and I expressed our opinions at the February Authority meeting that we must have the Governor's support if we are to participate in the \$8 billion stimulus plan to get high speed rail started in Florida.

Some at our meeting last Thursday saw a small glimmer of hope in the April 1 letter addressed to you from Secretary Kopelousos. The glimmer of optimism was snuffed out for me when Debbie Hunt, representing the Secretary, went out of her way to emphasize that the letter represented the Secretary's views and not the Governor's views. My guess is that it represented Authority member Browning's views who I understand negotiated the content of the letter with the Secretary while we were meeting in Tallahassee April 1-2.

As you know, each Authority member is serving beyond our appointed terms. The Governor has shown absolutely no interest in making the three appointments which the law prescribes that he do. And, without his leadership, I do not see any chance that the President of the Senate nor the Speaker of the House will appoint or reappoint the three positions on the Authority which each has.

I realize that our legal counsel has advised that each of us can serve until a successor is appointed. That just isn't enough for me any more. Therefore, I hereby resign as a member of the Florida High Speed Rail Authority.

If new appointments, or reappointments of existing Authority members become a reality and I am asked to serve again I will certainly do so. Until then, as you put it at our last meeting, "I have better

things to do with my time.”

Again, I thank you for your leadership and devotion to high speed rail in Florida.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

C.C. (Doc) Dockery

CCD/nh

c.c. Authority Member John P. Browning, Jr.
Authority Member Donald Crisp
Authority Member Frederick Dudley
Authority Member John Larkin
Authority Member Leila Nodarse, P.E.
Authority Member E. H. “Bill” Pitman
Ex-Officio Member Stephanie Kopelousos
Nazih K. Haddad, P.E., FDOT
Adrian B. Share. P.E. Wilbur Smith Associates