



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc.



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April 25, 2017

Honourable Tom Rooney
United States Congress
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rooney,

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On behalf of the Florida Transportation Builders' Association, Inc. (FTBA), we are writing to offer our strong support of your efforts to restore Congress' Constitutional authority to make needed investments in our country's aging infrastructure with respect to vetted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects. We believe that restoring this critical Constitutional authority will allow Congress to prioritize funding for projects already scrutinized for their scientific and economic merit, and promote President Trump's agenda to restore America's aging infrastructure.

Throughout Florida, the transportation construction industry assists the Army Corps with critical projects designed to meet the state and federal government's environmental and ecological restoration goals. For instance, completion of the Tamiami Trail One-Mile Bridge—an important component of the Modified Water Deliveries Project—was an integral part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. As the Army Corps begins working on the next segment of this bridge project it is imperative that stakeholders are given the opportunity to advocate for the funding of these, and similar, infrastructure projects.

The annual appropriations process used to give us a chance to secure funding for these authorized Corps' projects, but since 2011 this practice has been banned under the earmark moratorium. The earmark moratorium presents a consistent challenge for our local economy, particularly when we have no recourse to advocate for necessary federal funds for projects that are endorsed by a range of economic and environmental interests, and that benefit from state and local entities ready to meet their cost-share commitments.

The more than 350 member companies of FTBA and the thousands of employees support your efforts to establish limited exceptions to the earmark moratorium for these economically-vital water resources development projects.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Burleson
President

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