

**Florida High Speed Rail Authority
Letter from United States Senate**

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
February 5, 2002

Hon. Frederick Dudley, Chairman
Florida High Speed Rail Authority
c/o Nazih Haddad
605 Suwannee St. MS-67
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Dear Mr. Dudley:

We are writing to thank you for sending us recently the Florida High Speed Rail Authority's Report to the Legislature, to congratulate the Authority on its efforts to date and to restate our support.

Your report to the legislature makes it clear the Authority has made significant progress in its brief existence. You have identified the issues which must be addressed to comply with the wishes of Florida voters as expressed in 2000 when they amended the Florida Constitution to mandate construction of a high-speed rail network. You have also taken the necessary steps to initiate environmental, ridership and engineering studies which must be done in order to begin construction by the November, 2003 deadline set by the constitutional amendment. We applaud those important steps.

We are very pleased that we were able to assist the Authority by gaining approval in the fiscal 2002 appropriation bill for the Department of Transportation of a \$3 million appropriation in furtherance of your efforts. The program from which that money flows can be a source of additional study funds in the future. We will also continue to work to enhance Federal funding opportunities for High Speed Rail in Florida. We both are supporters of the High Speed Rail Investment Act, a version of which was approved by the Senate Finance Committee in the fall of 2001. We will continue working on that proposal and other potential funding options in the months and years ahead. We are confident that the Federal government will be there to partner with you and your colleagues when it is time to assemble the resources needed for construction of high speed rail in our state.

Please keep us informed of your activities. We look forward to working with you towards our common goal -- improving transportation options for citizens and visitors in Florida.

Sincerely,

