

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 16, 2009

Date Submitted: June 3, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Kessler

Subject: Request Board Support of Legislation for Projects That Expand & Improve the Nation's Rail Network

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests the Board to support legislation that would create a 25 percent tax incentive for projects that expand and improve the nation's rail network and send letters requesting such support from The Honorable Bill Nelson, The Honorable Mel Martinez, Congressman F. Allen Boyd, Jr., and Congressman Ander Crenshaw.

Background:

In these economically troubling times, it is important to efficiently and cost-effectively move raw materials in and finished goods out. Our transportation infrastructure is becoming stressed as the amount of freight increases. The amount of truck traffic on our roads has increased and the trucks have increased in both length and weight.

Analysis:

Through intermodal service – freight shared by trucks and trains – railroads move almost 12 million trailers or containers a year. That means less traffic on our roads, less pollution in our skies, less wasted energy, and safer highways. The support of tax incentive legislation will encourage companies to expand rail service, such as constructing rail spurs, with their up-front capital and then be compensated with a 25 percent tax incentive.

Options:

1. Approve to send the four letters of support.
2. Do not approve to send the four letters of support.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Letters to Legislators