



February 16, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce urges you to reconsider your rejection of more than \$2 billion in federal funding for the High Speed Rail connecting Tampa-Orlando.

According to the Florida Department of Transportation (www.FloridaHighSpeedRail.org), building the Tampa-Orlando HSR line is projected to create 23,000 job-years of direct construction jobs and more than 48,000 job-years of work through both direct and spin-off employment during the four-year construction period. The peak employment period will be between the fall of 2012 and 2014 when close to 10,000 workers are expected to be directly employed in building the system. FDOT further estimates the system will employ approximately 600 people once operation starts and another 500 indirectly on an on-going basis.

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce understands the need to provide transit solutions and believes that this is an important piece in helping those businesses in our super-region and around the state. This project is of vital economic importance due to its ability to create jobs across Florida, spurring the prosperity that our state so desperately needs.

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce also knows how important High Speed Rail is to the success of TBARTA, SunRail and to the future of all state multi-modal transportation systems. We believe in regional mobility initiatives that move goods and people while maintaining the integrity of the area.

We all share the same core beliefs about our future and how our regions are stronger together. This is why the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce will continue to pledge its support for High Speed Rail in Florida.

We sincerely hope you reconsider your decision and that we can work together to make High Speed Rail a reality for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Rohrlack".

Robert J. Rohrlack Jr., CEcD
President and CEO