



May 23, 2014

Mr. Hussein Cumber
All Aboard Florida
2855 LeJeune Road
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Mr. Cumber:

1000 Friends of Florida remains committed to the reintroduction of passenger rail service between Orlando and Miami, but in keeping with our mission of building better communities, community compatibility is in the forefront of our priorities. Ours was one of the four nonprofit groups that sent a letter to you on October 10, 2012, in support of AAF's proposed high speed passenger rail service on the southern section. In light of community issues north of this area, and the uncertainties in resolving them, we are reassessing our endorsement.

We made our 2012 comments in reference to the release of the Federal Railroad Administration's environmental assessment for the Miami to West Palm Beach link. Of note is that this assessment was only for a limited portion of the project. Since that time, significant community impact issues involving 40 communities between Jupiter and Cocoa have surfaced, causing us to withdraw our support unless the forthcoming environmental impact statement (EIS) can in particular adequately address the quality of life, safety, access and cost issues associated with the project. Quality of life is a very important part of 1000 Friends' mission, and we cannot support any project that threatens it.

At this time, it remains unclear what commitments AAF is prepared to make regarding safety and quiet zones, other than the minimums that are required. It is our impression that answers to these and many other community impact issues will be fully documented in the EIS. In particular, we expect to find in the EIS a robust and complete discussion of alternatives, including the relocation of the passenger and/or rail service to the existing western CSX line.

We look forward to a careful review of the important EIS document, and will advise you of our position after that review is completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles G. Pattison".

Charles G. Pattison, FAICP
President

cc: Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation
Eric Draper, Audubon of Florida
John Adornato, NPCA
Federal Railroad Administration

