

# CITY OF FORT PIERCE *Florida*



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March 25, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Murphy  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

All Aboard Florida is poised to be an economic boon to Florida because it will provide incoming Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando air passengers with access to those cities by rail. Unfortunately, those passengers will bypass the towns in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties, while creating detrimental effects on the quality of life, the safety and the economy of the Treasure Coast's three counties.

All Aboard Florida is of major concern to the citizens of Fort Pierce because:

1. The safety of pedestrians and vehicles will be threatened by a high-speed train traveling over seven crossings, as well as through property owned by residents and businesses living and working along the Indian River Lagoon.
2. Thirty two high speed trains a day will continuously affect the historic neighborhoods of Fort Pierce with the noise of the trains speeding on the tracks, as well as the train whistles. Historic neighborhoods, such as Edgartown, Rivers Edge and Downtown Fort Pierce, contain historic buildings, some 100 years old, which have been restored and lovingly maintained.
3. The citizens of Fort Pierce, along with government agencies, have spent millions revitalizing buildings in our downtown area, such as the Sunrise Theatre and Historic City Hall. More recently, the City of Fort Pierce and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) invested \$30 million to rebuild our City Marina and to protect the waterfront from future major hurricane damage. The high speed trains will impede ingress and egress to the downtown area, which is now alive with tourists and residents on a regular basis.

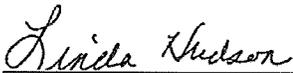
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4. All Aboard Florida runs parallel and quite close to the environmentally sensitive Indian River Lagoon, the most diverse estuary in North America. The frequent high speed trains, along with an anticipated increase in freight traffic, would significantly reduce economic and recreational opportunities for our community.
5. All Aboard Florida high speed rail quiet zones at our Orange Avenue and Avenue A crossings will reduce the size of our \$12 million parking garage, and render it effectively useless.
6. Businesses along the Florida Turnpike and Interstate 95 will be adversely affected, as more people travel on high speed rail rather than drive back and forth between Miami to Orlando.

It is uncertain how much money will be required from the City of Fort Pierce to upgrade and maintain crossings, as well as corridor improvements, but I can assure you that it will be unaffordable for our taxpayers. We have severe reservations in our ability to keep our citizens safe, when faced with the prospect of these extreme expenditures.

We ask for your assistance in helping federal officials understand the potential and certain harm that will come to our city and its residents should All Aboard Florida not fund crossing upgrades for quiet zones and fail to take into account the harm we anticipate to our quality of life. We would be willing to explore ways that the area may benefit directly to offset and/or mitigate the impacts of All Aboard Florida.

Sincerely,



Linda Hudson, Mayor

LH:jdr

c: Members of the City Commission  
Robert J. Bradshaw, City Manager