March 23, 2017

Mr. Edward Boling
Acting Chairman, Council of Environmental Policy
Executive Office of the President
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chairman Boling:

I would like to bring to your attention a long pending road project in Pasco County, Florida. For 19 years, federal permits have delayed Pasco County's work to develop the Ridge Road Extension which will provide critical hurricane and tropical storm evacuation capacity for more than 200,000 residents in the county's coastal areas. I have been assured that Pasco County is prepared to implement the project pending issuance of the federal permit required by the Clean Water Act. As a county road, the state has no permitting or financial responsibility. I write this letter to request your timely review of the Ridge Road Extension project for designation as a "high priority" infrastructure project for expedited environmental review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Executive Order 13766 signed by President Trump on January 24, 2017.

When I was in business, I often waited a long time for a simple yes or no. Regardless of what the answer is, Pasco County deserves a timely response. I understand that the county has worked diligently with the Army Corps to complete the permit process and I appreciate your attention and quick action on this matter so the county may plan accordingly and avoid unnecessary waste in this drawn-out procedure.

I have enclosed background information regarding the county's efforts to obtain the required permit and implement the project. Please let me know if my office can provide additional information that would assist in your review. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Congressman Gus Bilirakis
March 2, 2017

Rick Scott, Governor
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Ridge Road Extension Project (Pasco County), Presidential Executive Order 13766

Dear Governor Scott:

My Senate district includes the southwestern portion of Pasco County, which is adjacent to the Gulf Coast. It is an area in serious need of infrastructure for emergency evacuation. The Ridge Road Extension (RRE) project is one such project that can address this concern.

The area regularly experiences flooding during both major and minor storms. In addition, Pasco has continued growth in residential and commercial development. That growth along the coast carries with it increased need for mobility and additional evacuation capacity from these vulnerable areas. Population growth elsewhere in the Tampa Bay area, including Pinellas County which is also in my district, places further demand on the existing evacuation routes in Pasco, as residents in Pinellas are forced to head north to seek refuge from storms.

During a flood event my constituents are limited to their roadway options to evacuate the area, putting their lives at risk. The most critical public safety project in Pasco County to increase emergency mobility is the RRE project. I have seen firsthand the vulnerability Pasco County faces in the aftermath of flooding events. This project has lingered far too long, over the past 19 years, in the federal permitting process without a permit decision.

I respectfully call on you to designate the Pasco County Ridge Road Extension (RRE) project as a priority project in accordance with the Executive Order (EO) 13766 Section 2, Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects. Thank you for your consideration and favorable support of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jack Latvala
State Senator
District 16
Ridge Road Extension (RRE)

Project Overview & Status

HQUSACE Meeting – February 27, 2017

Commissioners Mike Wells, Kathryn Starkey, and Jack Mariano
Administrator Michele Baker, Government Affairs Officer Ralph Lair
727-847-8115
Pasco in Center of Florida Gulf Coast

- 868 square miles
- 497,909 residents (37% growth rate last decade)
- 916,400 expected by 2040
- 12th largest population in Florida
- Tampa Bay is 2nd largest MSA at 2.9m
To improve east-west roadway capacity and enhance overall mobility within the area bounded by SR-52 to the north, SR-54 to the south, US-41 to the eats and Moon Lake Road, Decubellis Road, Starkey Boulevard to the west in accordance with the County’s current Comprehensive Plan and the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Long Range Transportation Plan. The project will also provide additional roadway capacity and improved routing away from coastal hazard areas and improve hurricane evacuation clearance times in the event of a hurricane or other major weather-related occurrence in accordance with State of Florida requirements and the County’s current Comprehensive Plan.”
More than 218,000 people live in Pasco County evacuation areas and need to move inland. More than 1 million people in the region need to use Pasco’s evacuation routes.
Recurring Flooding on SR 54

Intersection of SR 54 and Rowan Road/Seven Springs Blvd.
Serenova DRI

- Approved by DCA, RPC & Pasco, Jan 1992
- Included RRE on Plans
- 6,481 residential units
- 279.1 acres of retail development
- 154.6 acres of office development
- 244.5 acres of industrial development
- Several public facilities
Pasco County's Request

- We need another evacuation route before a hurricane causes significant loss of life.
- We need the alternative analysis review completed and the LEDPA identified.
- We need expedited agency reviews, and a timely permit decision.

Thank you!