

E1-21157
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Ron Bobay
5944 Windover Way
Titusville, Florida 32780
October 24, 2015

Surface Transportation Board
c/o Dave Nevecky
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001
Attention: Environmental Filing Docket No. FD 35852

Dear Mr. Nevecky

I am writing to you as a resident of the Brevard County community and home to the Port Canaveral Port Authority. I have followed with interest the proposed rail project through the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR). I spoke at the initial public hearings, had the opportunity to speak with you, and have followed with written correspondence. My purpose today is to express my changing views as I have continued to learn more about this project.

I am not in favor of any of the proposed routes that are being discussed: MINWR, parallel to the SR 528 route, or the Canaveral Air Force Station. I have been learning that mitigation in distant areas can sometimes be an option on projects of this nature. In this case it is inappropriate and I am requesting this not be a consideration.

I do understand that some of the decisions to be made are political, based on different governing entities and your decision must be made on your area of jurisdiction. As a local citizen, it is my desire that these decisions be considered in their totality. I am sharing them with you so you at least are aware where you have authority to consider them.

My concerns are as follows:

The MINWR and Canaveral National Seashore constitute the largest undeveloped coastal area remaining in Florida, they have become national treasures. I understand their original intent was to provide a safety buffer for the space program and they continue to do so. I do not feel an unrelated commercial expansion into this area is appropriate. I understand the need to use this area for the space program and even some possible expansion. I also have previously suggested to you that the Federal Aviation Authority request for an Environmental Impact Study in the north end of the MINWR is inappropriate. Your study should be taking this into account in terms of the aggregate impact on these areas.

I am not in favor of the commercialization of this particular area of Brevard County which is now a cruise and tourist destination. I understand, this will need to be a decision of the local governing entities but feel you need to be aware this is a concern.

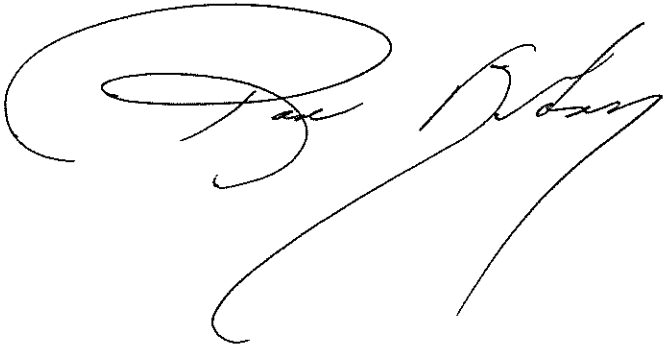
Central Florida and a coalition of counties with major community leaders has had significant efforts such as "How Shall We Grow" which discuss the minimization of urban sprawl, protection of conservation areas, preserving green space, and protecting green space, yet we see these efforts which seem to contradict these goals. It is a frustration when so many agencies seem to be working in "silos" because of their narrow focus.

I have personally appreciated your efforts to solicit public input. I understand there will be more. I also have been grateful for the access to you individually to better understand the process and listen to the concerns. I have written to you today to share with you my changing

opinions on this matter since I have been on record both orally and in writing on considering some of these alternate proposals.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.