

Surface Transportation Board

Incoming Correspondence Record

#EI-20844

Correspondence Information		Status: In Process	
* Required Fields		Recorded by David Navecky on 12/30/2014	
*Docket #:	FD 35852 0	Affiliation:	Self / Individual
*Name of Sender:	Charlene Laferriere	Letter Type:	Letter
Group:			
Attention Of:			
*Date Received:	12/22/2014	NEPA Type:	Scoping
Date of Letter:	12/12/2014	In Public Docket?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Group's Address:	3585 Savannahs Trail		
		Phone Number:	
Group's City:	Merritt Island	Email Address:	
Group's State:	FL	Group's Zip Code:	32953-

Submitter's Comments

STB's Comments

Image Attachment(s)

An attachment has not been added.

December 12, 2014

E1-20844
Rec'd 12/22/14

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
AnN: Environmental Filing,
Docket No. FD 35852
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

We moved to North Merritt Island in October of 1997. We loved the beauty of the Banana River nearby and the prestige Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. There were always the Sand Hill Cranes the blue herons, pink Spoonbills, and even alligators around the golf course. Just the prefect setting of Old Florida. A short distance away is the Indian River. The community is working very hard to restore the two rivers to get back to where they used to be for fishing and boating – viewing of dolphins and manatees and all kinds of Wildlife.

The port has its cruise ships – we understand that. We can hear them leaving when their whistles blow or hear the Disney music. That is always pleasant to hear.

What we DO NOT ever want to hear is a train whistle going through this pristine area. Pollution pollution pollution. Trains give off chemicals that dirty the water, dirty the air, and will scare off the protected wildlife. A train should never be allowed to enter this wildlife refuge.

A causeway across the Banana River will further block the water flow in the river making the river even more contaminated. We need as much flow in the rivers as possible.

The port has gotten very much too big. If they have a train that runs 2 or 3 times a week – soon it will be 2 or 3 times a day. It will kill the Merritt Island Wildlife refuge. Expanding freight at the port will also kill the pristine beaches we have in Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach. A port city will not bring tourists to the area. It will stop them from coming. Who wants a dirty beach, ugly sand, and tar sticking to your feet? Example – Jacksonville Beach. It is a shame – it is so dirty. Even near Miami Beach – there are buckets as you leave the beach with tar remover. Ugly.

As far as jobs???? No way. Those freighters have their own workers. No jobs will be obtained – just the ruin of a pristine wildlife refuge. Having a train run on a causeway over the Banana River – through a refuge – is the most stupid plan I have ever heard of. At least, the residents of the area should be able to vote on this awful plan. They will ruin the refuge and the whole area just to make themselves more money. That is the whole purpose of this plan – more money in their pockets – not protecting the rights and lives of the community. How can something of this magnitude and having such a negative effect on a whole community be decided by a few people and not a vote by a whole community or a referendum

Please – no train in North Merritt Island.

Sincerely,



Charlene S. Laferriere
3585 Savannahs Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32953
