



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 7, 2022
Part of
Public Record

February 6, 2022

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

I am contacting you in support of the Gulf Coast Service expansion and plan to participate in the Surface Transportation Board public hearing on February 15 regarding Docket No. FD 36496. I would like to request 2-3 minutes to speak.

The expansion would allow additional tourism throughout the gulf coast, bringing jobs and benefitting retail, tourism and food/lodging along the Gulf Coast.

This expansion would:

- Reduce traffic and vehicle travel times on our highways.
- Be the environmentally-friendly solution.
- Increase productivity for riders that choose passenger rail to commute.

Blocking this critical first expansion may set a precedent and jeopardize other proposed expansions around the country.

Many of our Hispanic businesses rely on transportation infrastructure and Amtrak's investment in expanded routes and service will create skilled labor jobs in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julio Fuentes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julio Fuentes

President and CEO

Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce