

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0909

December 8, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express my support for the All Aboard Florida project and to thank you for your attention to ensuring the NEPA process is, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, completed as expeditiously as possible.

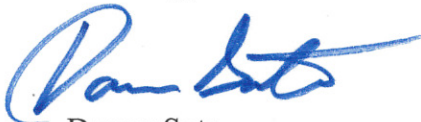
With All Aboard Florida's *Brightline* intercity passenger rail system about to begin service between Miami and West Palm Beach, Central Florida is enthusiastically waiting for *Brightline*'s expansion to Orlando International Airport, which is located in my Congressional District. Construction of the new Intermodal Terminal Facility (ITF) at Orlando Airport is nearing completion and will be ready to receive *Brightline*'s train once the new rail infrastructure is complete.

Building a high speed or express passenger rail system serving Florida's two most populous business and tourist centers has been a long-sought goal in our state. The coming of *Brightline* is an important milestone in that effort. As a private sector initiative, it is significant as a model of what can be accomplished in other regions when the goals of the public and private sector are aligned.

As a Member of Congress representing one of the fastest growing regions in the country, I look forward to seeing this historic rail system connect to Orlando.

Your attention to Florida's transportation mobility needs is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress