

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

Dear Governor Scott:

We applaud you on your efforts during your inaugural legislative session to push for policy which creates jobs and helps ensure Florida is a state companies want to bring their business to. While there have been many successes, there currently is a job-killing budget appropriation that deserves your attention. We, the undersigned, believe the 2011-2012 General Appropriations Act (SB 2000) is a conservative appraisal of our state's dire fiscal reality, but unfairly places a burden on Florida's ability save and create jobs with a multimillion raid on the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF). **We encourage you to veto this portion of the budget and restore the \$150 million back to the STTF.**

The proposed \$150 million raid on the transportation trust fund creates a potential \$250-million reduction in the Department of Transportation's (FDOT) construction work program from now through June 2012. This one-time sweep has the potential to *eliminate 7,000 Florida jobs* and will only add to Florida's strained unemployment compensation and healthcare systems.

In 2014, the expansion of the Panama Canal will be complete and Florida will be poised to serve as the capital of foreign trade on America's eastern seaboard. To help prepare for added port-related trade, legislation was passed to help Florida's ports expand and streamline operations. Without a substantial transportation infrastructure in place to help move those goods, Florida will jeopardize its chance to fully take advantage of this unique trade opportunity.

Florida's transportation industry has always been a key element in the strength of our state's economy. We know that for every \$1 spent on road construction, \$7 is returned to the economy. Over the past few years, the legislature has worked to divert transportation dollars out of the trust fund to balance the budget. However, stripping funds from an industry which offers immediate economic stimulus only exacerbates Florida's economic woes and will undoubtedly impact unemployment figures.

By vetoing the trust fund raids, you will be making a proper investment in Florida's transportation system which supports our diverse economy and the needs of Floridians. In the midst of rising unemployment rates and a struggling economy, your veto would be one action that surely moves Florida in a positive direction. **Our organizations encourage you to veto the \$150 million raid of the State Transportation Trust Fund. Seven thousand Florida jobs are dependent on your decision.**

SINCERELY,

The Florida Transportation Builders' Association