



Sent to media around state of Florida on 10/21/09
Filed: Washington D.C.
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SHAME ON US? LWV Florida President Hails Senator LeMieux's Comments

The State President of the Florida League of Women Voters today hailed Senator LeMieux's challenge to Florida legislators to get Florida's rail bid "back on track" to be a front runner on high speed rail. "This is a unique opportunity to bring jobs and federal funds to embattled Florida right away," Deirdre Macnab said, "but our Governor and our state legislative leadership must have their full focus on this issue for us to succeed."

"Ensuring that we have done our homework, and that includes solving the Tri-Rail funding and Sunrail deal impasse, should be on the top of Tallahassee's To Do list. We simply must not miss this historic opportunity to bring jobs and smart growth initiatives to this state, while reducing congestion and offering lower cost convenient transit options to our citizens."

LEMIEUX URGES ACTION ON HISTORIC HIGH-SPEED RAIL OPPORTUNITY

Oct. 20, 2009

AP WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator George LeMieux (R-FL) today met with fellow Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and several Florida State lawmakers to talk about the potential for billions in Federal investment in high-speed rail in Florida. Senator LeMieux stressed that Florida’s chance for a multi-billion dollar boost from the U.S. Department of Transportation is in jeopardy if the State Legislature doesn’t take action on SunRail and other commuter rail systems by the end of the year.

“Shame on us if we don’t take advantage of this historic opportunity. The Federal government is ready to invest billions of dollars but they need a firm and long-term commitment from our state,” said LeMieux. “Building commuter and high-speed rail lines will create thousands of jobs; it will stimulate our economy; and it will mean transformative change for our metropolitan areas.”

Senators LeMieux and Nelson met with Senate President Jeff Atwater, Democrat Leader Al Lawson, and Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair J.D. Alexander.

“Florida’s senators stand together committed to helping our state construct high-speed rail. I commend Senators Atwater, Lawson, and Alexander for committing to pursuing this historic opportunity,” said LeMieux.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has roughly \$8 billion set aside from the federal stimulus funds for high-speed rail projects. There are currently more than 200 applications from 40 states. Florida is applying for funds for the existing designated high-speed rail corridors from Tampa to Orlando and from Orlando to Miami.

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