



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

Post Office Box 9695 * Daytona Beach * Florida * 32120 * 386-248-0511 * www.LWVVC.org

July 16, 2007

Mr. Frank Bruno, Chair
Volusia County Council
123 West Indiana Avenue
DeLand, FL 32720-4612

Dear Mr. Bruno:

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the proposed Central Florida commuter rail system. After consulting with the local Leagues of Women Voters in Orange and Seminole Counties and attending the July 11 Volusia County Workshop at the Administration Center, we believe we have a good understanding of how this rail system will benefit the residents and visitors in our county, as well as those in other Central Florida counties.

First of all, the League of Women Voters has a well established history of supporting energy conservation. In 1991 the LWV joined the Coalition for an Energy Efficient Florida, which worked to reduce consumer disincentives to efficient energy use and to provide incentives for energy efficiency. In view of the continuing congestion of automobile traffic on I-4, we believe the goal of energy conservation can be advanced with the rail system.

Another concern of the LWV is air quality. While Florida was once considered a leader in the preservation of air quality, developing economic problems and energy needs have reduced our once high standards and placed the health and welfare of the public at risk. In response to this problem, our organization has worked to publicize the increasing problem of acid rain attributable specifically to auto emissions. We believe that the reduction in automobile traffic in our area with the subsequent use of commuter rail would contribute to the goal of improving our air quality.

Furthermore, as gas prices continue to increase, we need to be aware that an alternative transportation system must be provided for Florida workers and families who cannot afford the ever increasing costs of automobile transportation. While the LWV is committed to environmental protection, we also believe that protecting the environment is impossible unless we take steps to improve the economic prospects of our state's poorly paid workers and most needy.

Given the above reasons, all based on member study and consensus, we urge you to vote YES on the Central Florida commuter rail system when it comes before the County Council on July 30.

Sincerely,

Sandra Horikami, President

Cc: J. Alexander; A. Kelly; A. Giles; J. Hayman; C. Persis; P. Northey

Note for LWVVC members and others – For more information on the Commuter Rail System--go to <http://www.cfrail.com/>. To see information that was presented at the Workshop go to <http://volusia.org/>. There is a picture of a train and it will link you to information.