



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Elizabeth Porter

District 10

Elizabeth.Porter@myfloridahouse.gov

*Education Committee, Vice Chair
Economic Affairs & Tourism Subcommittee, Vice Chair
Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee
K-12 Education Subcommittee
Select Committee on Gaming*

*The Honorable Will Weatherford
Speaker of the House*

*The Honorable Marti Coley
Speaker Pro-Tempore*

September 3, 2014

Mr. John Peconom
Project Manager
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Mr. Peconom,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am State Rep. Elizabeth Porter, the representative for House District 10 which includes the counties of Suwannee, Columbia, Hamilton, Baker and Alachua. House District 10 also contains the greatest number of first magnitude springs in Florida, including the world famous Ichetucknee Spring, Ichetucknee, Suwannee, Withlacoochee, Saint Mary's and Santa Fe rivers.

I write to you today in regard to the proposed Sabal Trail natural gas transmission pipeline. First let me say that I am in full support of an additional transmission line for the state of Florida, as I see it not only as an economic plus, but also as a matter of state security in the event of other pipeline failures or interruptions. I am concerned, however, with the proposed route for the line in regards to the area in which it will cross the Withlacoochee River in Hamilton County.

Though I certainly appreciate Sabal's willingness to propose an alternate route, the route crossing Hamilton County is unfortunately still in a critically sensitive area. This route would require directional drilling underneath the Withlacoochee River in a highly karstic area known for well-developed sinkholes, underground fracture systems, and multiple spring vents that comprise significant geologic hazards that are highly susceptible to sudden structural collapse. This alternative route crosses these well-documented geologic hazards which pose highly significant potential for pipeline rupture which could cause a catastrophic explosion and/or leakage of hydrocarbons.

*Koby Adams, Legislative Assistant
Koby.Adams@myfloridahouse.gov*

*Sheree Vann, District Secretary
Sheree.Vann@myfloridahouse.gov*

*Donna Ellerkamp, District Secretary
Donna.Ellerkamp@myfloridahouse.gov*

*Lake City Office: 678 SE Baya Drive, Lake City, Florida 32025-Telephone: 386.719.4600 Fax: 386.719.4609
Tallahassee Office: 405 House Office Building, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-Telephone: 850.717.5010*

Proper due diligence in placement of the proposed Sabal pipeline demands proper consideration of the unique geologic and ecologic conditions. Done properly, Florida can meet its growing demands for energy sources in a safe and responsible manner. I ask you to please consider the unique factors listed above, as well as the importance of these rivers and springs to our residents, both as the environmental jewels that they are, and as extremely important economic contributors to our District and our State. I hope you will guide Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC to locate the transmission line clear of this area where it will still benefit Sabal while protecting the Withlacoochee River basin.

Please feel free to call my office if I can be of any assistance to you, or if I can provide you with any resources you may need.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Porter,
Member of the Florida House of Representatives,
District 10