



**Stacy Ritter, Mayor**

Commissioner – District 3

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e-mail: [sritter@broward.org](mailto:sritter@broward.org)

October 23, 2009

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I write to ask for your support of an important federal legislative amendment that would provide needed additional local control over our port operations and would enable us to address significant safety concerns while modernizing our port trucking and logistical operations. Port Everglades is a major economic driver for our community and provides substantial economic activity and jobs to our area. Port Everglades generates approximately \$18 billion worth of business activity and nearly 200,000 jobs. The Capital Improvement Plan anticipates approximately \$1 billion in additional infrastructure development in our 20-year Master Plan. However, there is a problem which must be addressed immediately if we are to achieve our vision of a more efficient and prosperous port.

Port Everglades' harbor trucking system is antiquated. Past attempts to improve the safety of port trucking have largely failed. Poorly maintained vehicles, overweight containers and unsafe chassis are still much too prevalent for trucks coming in and out of the port. Both residents and truck drivers have expressed their concern about the dangerous conditions in which these trucks are required to operate. While the Port is allowed to regulate "motor vehicle safety" under the current version of the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act (FAAAA), we are provided no real enforcement powers. Currently the FAAAA only allows state and local entities to adopt regulations for a narrow scope of "vehicle safety" related programs. Unfortunately, the 30-year old statute fails to address the recent rise in the volume and concentration of containerized trade. While such growth has brought great economic benefits to ports and local communities, it has also created significant challenges in the areas of public safety as well as environmental protection, port security and throughput efficiency. As a result, the FAAAA needs to be updated. I ask for your support in amending the motor carrier statute within the FAAAA to expand regulatory exemptions for ports.

I look forward to the possibility of working with you on this issue and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Ritter".

Stacy Ritter  
Mayor

SR:GH:PL:cmt

C: Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Bertha Henry, County Administrator  
Pamela Madison, Assistant County Administrator  
Phil Allen, Director, Port Everglades  
Gretchen Harkins, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Professional Standards



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October 23, 2009

The Honorable George LeMieux  
United States Senate  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator LeMieux:

I write to ask for your support of an important federal legislative amendment that would provide needed additional local control over our port operations and would enable us to address significant safety concerns while modernizing our port trucking and logistical operations. Port Everglades is a major economic driver for our community and provides substantial economic activity and jobs to our area. Port Everglades generates approximately \$18 billion worth of business activity and nearly 200,000 jobs. The Capital Improvement Plan anticipates approximately \$1 billion in additional infrastructure development in our 20-year Master Plan. However, there is a problem which must be addressed immediately if we are to achieve our vision of a more efficient and prosperous port.

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