



~RESOLUTION~

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2006, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, issued an opinion (Case # 03-23427-CIV-Hoeveler) challenging the nine permits issued by the U.S. Corps of Engineers allowing the mining of limestone in the “Lake Belt” region of South Florida, a case that may result in the issuance of an injunction to halt mining activities; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Florida Transportation Commission to provide leadership on issues related to Florida’s statewide transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Belt region of Miami-Dade County provides the primary source of durable limestone rock of high quality for the construction industry of Florida; and

WHEREAS, for the past 40 years, approximately 50 percent of the aggregate used by the Florida Department of Transportation statewide has come from the mines in the Lake Belt region by virtue of the quantity and quality of the rock mined there; and

WHEREAS, there is no comparable economically feasible source of quality material in Florida for replacing aggregate from the Lake Belt mines, and there are distribution limitations associated with importing aggregate; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s transportation infrastructure plays an integral part in the state’s economy and every \$1.00 invested in the state’s transportation infrastructure returns \$5.50 in benefits to the state’s economy; and

WHEREAS, any halt in the production of aggregate from the Lake Belt region will have an immediate, drastic, and long-lasting impact on the state’s ability to maintain and improve that infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the lack of aggregate and the increased costs will delay and in some instances cause cancellation of on-going and future construction projects; and

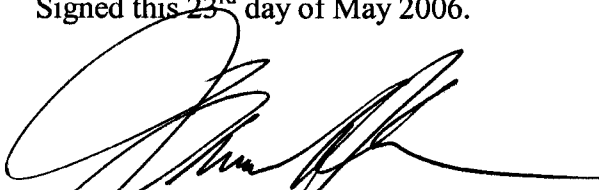
WHEREAS, existing projects with an original contract amount of \$2.9 billion will be suspended for lack of aggregate if the Lake Belt mines close and over the next six months postpone future projects totaling over \$1.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, this would totally shut down construction in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, Indian River and St. Lucie counties; and

WHEREAS, the permits subject to the court ordered remand include provisions for wetland mitigation which have resulted in a net increase in functional wetlands over the past four years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Transportation Commission strongly urges the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, to allow mining activities in the Lake Belt region to continue during the 18 month period it is estimated to take for the U.S. Corps of Engineers to review the permits, recognizing that, by voiding the permits, the impact on the economy of Florida would be devastating.

Signed this 23rd day of May 2006.



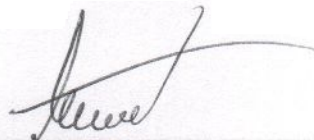
James W. Holton, Chairman
Florida Transportation Commission



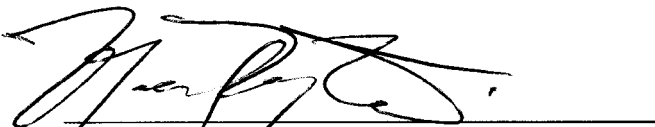
Janet Watermeier, Vice Chair
Florida Transportation Commission



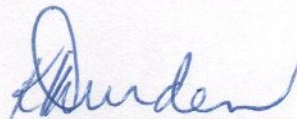
Sidney Calloway, Secretary
Florida Transportation Commission



Gabriel Bustamante, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Marshall M. Criser III, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission




Earl Durden, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Marty Lanahan, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Commissioner
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David A. Straz, Jr., Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission