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FACT SHEET

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Due to a recent Miami federal court ruling, the supply of rock so vitally important to meeting Florida's growing transportation and housing needs is NOW in serious jeopardy. A shut-down of so-called Lake Belt mining in Miami-Dade would have a dramatic and disastrous effect on ALL of Florida. It would run the very real risk of bringing Florida's booming economy to a screeching halt.

Background – On March 22, 2006, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, (Case No. 03-23427-CIV- Hoeveler) decided to remand environmental studies related to the so-called Lake Belt plan back to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the court restricts Lake Belt mining for 18 months while the federal agencies redo environmental studies used to issue mining permits, much of Florida could face unimaginable traffic gridlock.

Consequences - According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the production loss resulting from a shut-down in Lake Belt rock mining would be:

- 100% in Districts 6 and 4 (*all of Southeast Florida*),
- 50-75% in Districts 1 and 7 (*Southwest Florida and the Tampa Bay Region*), and
- 25-50% in Districts 5 and 2 (*Central Florida and Northeast Florida*).

Simply put, a halt to mining in the Miami-Dade Lake Belt would:

1. shut down road construction and/or improvements in most of Florida,
2. dramatically drive up construction costs in those few areas still able to get "aggregate",
3. bring much of the housing construction industry in Florida to a standstill, and
4. quite possibly throw Florida's thriving economy into a recession.

If a *foreign* power attempted to do any or all of these, Floridians would correctly label it an act of "**economic terrorism**."

The Keep Florida Rockin Coalition - To help publicize the transportation *and* economic implications of a possible shut-down on Lake Belt mining, [Floridians for Better Transportation](#) (FBT) has formed the "[Keep Florida Rockin!](#)" Coalition. This statewide business and transportation coalition:

- A.) supports Florida's economy and transportation needs,
- B.) understands the importance of Lake Belt mining to both, and
- C.) wants to encourage the federal court to make the right decision for Florida's future.