



Delegations

Chair, Santa Rosa County Delegation
Member, Escambia County Delegation

Councils and Committees

Schools and Learning Council
Vice Chair, Committee on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Business Regulation
Committee on Courts
Committee on Energy

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Clay Ford

District 3

April 28, 2008

Joint Meeting of Commissioners
Escambia and Santa Rosa County
221 Palafox Place, Suite 430
Pensacola, FL 32502

RE: Letter to Escambia and Santa Rosa County Commissions in Joint Session

Dear Chairmen Whitehead and Broxson:

With much regret, I am unable to attend your Joint Session on Tuesday due to the legislative session being in the final week, during which our budget must be passed. I do look forward to returning home to my district and applaud your desire to reach a new plain of cooperation between our two counties. These trying times of reduced revenues require that we look for new ways to further improve our communities and get our jobs done. The challenges are great from the local municipality, to county, to state and to our national government.

One of the agenda items that you are scheduled to discuss for possible action is formation of a Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Finance Authority. I have been actively involved in discussions with DOT Secretary Kopelousas and Commissioner Valentino. We have been attempting to determine the feasibility of a bond financing method which will allow county government to continue to address transportation infrastructure needs in our local communities. The proposed method will not require new taxes, will allow rapid construction of needed roads, and will allow the bond debt service and principal to be repaid from the normal flow of state capacity funds from DOT. I believe that this method of financing will allow a savings from present lower construction costs which will offset debt service on the bonds.

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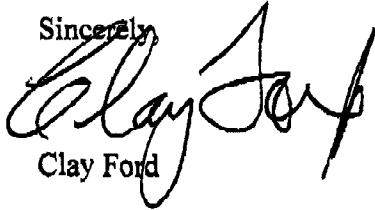
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I am pleased to be able to offer my strong endorsement for the proposed Regional Transportation Finance Authority and my support at the state level to help make it a reality. At this time, I do want to emphasize the absolute need for all parties to this Authority to be full participants at the table in insuring fairness in allocation of the projects to be funded under the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Clay Ford