



Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority

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March 2, 2009

The Honorable Kathy Castor
United States House of Representatives
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

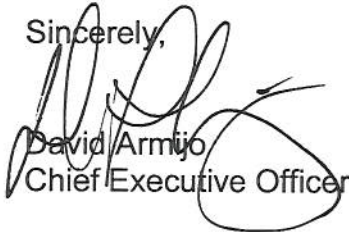
Dear US Representative Castor:

HART has just received notification of a special appropriation for FY 2009 of \$2.185 million. We appreciated your role in making this happen. Combined with the money coming to HART from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, it will allow our agency to catch up on bus purchases and badly needed facility improvements. Much of the money will be spent locally.

As you may be aware, there is an emerging consensus here in the Tampa Bay area for all the parties interested in doing rail to unite behind the HART rail initiative. We are working closely with both Hillsborough County and Mayor Iorio, and on February 27th received the support of the board of TBARTA which unanimously endorsed our joint effort moving forward. HART will be seeking funding for the preliminary engineering phase of the project in the FY 2010 Appropriations bill.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of public transportation and HART. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



David Armijo
Chief Executive Officer