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October 15, 2014

Rear Admiral John H. Korn
United States Coast Guard, 7th District
Brickell Plaza Federal Building
909 SE First Avenue
Miami, FL 33131-3050

Dear Rear Admiral Korn,

Thank you for your continued responsiveness regarding the likely harms that the proposed *All Aboard Florida* (AAF) project will have on marine navigation across the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. As we have discussed, the addition of 32 additional passenger trains (plus at least 10 more freight trains) will double or triple the time that trestle bridges over the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee rivers are closed every day. In a maritime community such as ours, the effects of these closures could be devastating. Emergency rescue vessels will be cut off from those in need, marine business will suffer economic losses, and recreational boats will idle in traffic.

I applaud the Coast Guard's decision to postpone its planned information collection sessions in favor of more comprehensive meetings with stakeholders. More interactive meetings including verbal testimony will enable the Coast Guard to learn more about boaters' existing needs and the risks posed by increased rail traffic. With the release of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) confirming many of the community's serious concerns about AAF and more frequent closures, I urge the Coast Guard to reschedule these meetings as soon as possible. It is of utmost importance that the concerns of the Coast Guard and maritime community be incorporated into the final EIS so the FRA may understand the harm that AAF would inflict on the region.

It is vital that the Coast Guard hear the concerns of business owners, boaters, and emergency personnel to evaluate how best to maintain the consistent navigability of our waterways. I look forward to working with you to address the serious maritime concerns of my constituents

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throughout the Palm Beaches and the Treasure Coast. Please let my office know if we can be of any assistance identifying a new location to host these meetings as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick E. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS