

Palm Beach County 2013/2014 Federal Agenda



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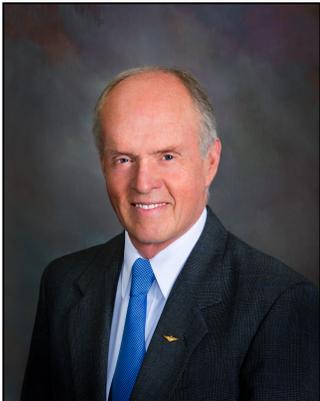
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TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT TOWER AND BAGGAGE HANDLING IMPROVEMENTS

Palm Beach County has worked with the FAA for over seven years to secure funding and build the Palm Beach International Airport Tower. Since 2010, the Airport Tower has stood nearly complete with little work being done to finalize the construction project. A recent decision to approve the construction of a TRACON Radar facility at the new location will enable the tower to begin operation in September of 2013. Monitor FAA progress on the construction of the TRACON to ensure the safe operation of airline traffic in and out of the PBIA.

In addition, support a funding request for the balance of a grant application submitted to the Department of Homeland Security. To date, \$27 million has been secured from the TSA and approximately \$10 million in Passenger Facility Charge funds have been secured. Provide the final \$5 million toward completion.

Project Name	Project Request	Brief Description
Baggage Handling System Improvements/In-Line Bag Screening System Implementation	\$5,000,000	This project will provide for the balance of a multi-phase project to replace and upgrade the existing baggage processing systems (inbound and outbound) at PBI to provide additional capacity and improve the overall operating efficiency of the existing baggage processing system. The existing system was constructed as part of the initial terminal development in the mid-to-late 1980's. This project also includes the implementation of an in-line baggage screening system pursuant to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) guidelines and requirements.

AIRPORT CUSTOMS

The Department of Airports has had discussions with US Customs and Border Patrol officials in an effort to provide Customs service at our main terminal after 4:00pm. Several airlines have requested additional international service at PBIA but are unable to provide the service since Customs officers only work at the main terminal until 4:00pm.

The Department of Airports has submitted plans to CBP for expansion of our Federal Inspection Station in anticipation of additional international service. Our marketing efforts include meetings in Europe with international airlines for service to PBIA in addition to

visits to all US domestic airlines who serve international destinations. However, if CBP cannot or will not provide service at PBIA's main terminal after 4:00pm, it becomes difficult if not impossible to have expanded international service at PBIA.

Continue to work with US Customs to provide flexibility in securing additional officers for international travel entering PBIA after 4:00pm.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

PGA Blvd - \$1,750,000

PGA Blvd. dissects a natural wetland that stores water released in the dry season for the Loxahatchee Slough, specifically between the C-18 Canal and the Beeline Highway. It is a main East/West thoroughfare for thousands of residents and a primary evacuation route for a large portion of Palm Beach County. In order to maintain access the road should be raised approximately 18 inches for a length of 10000 LF.

The estimated project cost is \$1,750,000 which includes engineering, permitting, new base, asphalt per DOT standards, reestablishment of the roadway embankments, mobilization, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems.

Traffic Calming - (CCRT Areas)

In an effort to make specified CCRT areas safer, more pleasant, and more livable, traffic calming funds are requested to help reduce accidents, collisions, noise, vibration, pollution, and crime. Work with the Federal Highway Administration to identify Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds that can be used to fund this project.

Belle Glade Road Construction/Street Repair - Phase One - \$860,250

More than any other issue facing Belle Glade today, the repair and rebuilding of streets is the city's number one concern. The city has outlined road resurfacing projects on Collector/Residential Roadways totaling \$860,250. Support the city's request to start repair and maintenance on these roads essential for future economic recovery in the city.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GLADES CITIES WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay are located in a socio-economically disadvantaged area of Western Palm Beach County. Prior to 2008, their source of water was Lake Okeechobee, an unreliable and poor quality source. The County constructed a \$58 million dollar regional water plant using a reliable brackish water source and reverse osmosis technology to improve water quality in the area. Unfortunately, the water infrastructure (pipelines) in all three cities is aged, was poorly constructed and has succumbed to the corrosive characteristics of the local soil. As much as 40% of the water being produced by the plant is leaking into the ground, compromising overall water quality. Furthermore, the deteriorating and undersized pipes of the system have problems providing adequate pressure (minimum 20 psi) during maximum daily flow conditions, particularly during fire flow events. There is considerable piping in each community that needs to be replaced to stem the leakage and improve operating pressures. These improvements are desperately needed in order to preserve the high quality of the water from the new plant and to maintain adequate fire flow pressures in the system protecting the public health and safety of the citizens of the three cities. The Glades Cities Water Infrastructure Project to construct these improvements to the water system is \$25 million, of which \$12.5 Million would be the federal share.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) - LANGUAGE FOR CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROJECTS

Directive Language

Palm Beach County has made a long-term commitment to maintain its beaches as detailed in the General Design Memorandum and the Project Cooperation Agreements developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but without line-item appropriations, reimbursement projects are no longer being funded at the Federal level.

In order to replace that critical funding mechanism as well as reduce the costs of these projects, we seek directive language to be included in the next WRDA bill. The following language is offered as a suggestion:

- ***The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to maintain reimbursement of local sponsors as the highest priority in the Corp's Annual Work Plan.***

Reimbursement project funding, if included in the Plan, is presently afforded a low priority and therefore not maintained throughout the budget process.

- ***The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to develop Project Partnership Agreements that encompass work anticipated through the end of the project's authorized lifetime.***

The present system of requiring decision documents (i.e. LRR, Section 934 report) for every phase of the project adds to the project costs and often delays project implementation.

- ***The Secretary of the Army, or his designee, is authorized and directed to include in future Project Partnership Agreements, retroactive reimbursement of local interests for work which is integral to the authorized federal projects.***

As federal funding for both design and construction of Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) beach projects has previously been provided through line-item appropriations that are not expected to be available in a timely fashion and funding agreements can be delayed by the required federal process, this language would allow the local sponsor to undertake the work already authorized with the anticipation of future reimbursement.

- ***The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to allow Palm Beach County, Florida, while acting as the non-federal sponsor, to perform all phases of Continuing Authority Projects and seek reimbursement upon completion and approval of each phase.***

The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) was authorized by Congress to streamline and improve the cost effectiveness of smaller water-resource and environmental restoration projects. The ten legislative authorities limit the individual project cost-share, but allow for Corps Division Commander approval of the projects and eliminate the need for project-specific authorization.

PBC, with its local partners, has extensive experience with environmental projects, having designed and built over 130 in the last 15 years. Nine of those projects were built with funding through the corps budget but without corps management. Four were CAP projects, which required, by authorization, Corps involvement with contract & construction management.

It has been our experience that the cost of involving the corps in project management exceeds the value of the grant, even when the county provides the project feasibility study, engineering & design, plans and specifications, permits and post-project monitoring. The corps system is primarily set up for large-scale projects with the inherent multi-level project review processing. On small-scale projects, that system translates to excessively high overhead costs. Therefore, the County no longer pursues partnerships with the corps through the CAP system

We are seeking directive language in WRDA which would allow PBC to manage CAP projects, thereby fulfilling the intent of the original legislation – to provide a cost-effective means of managing small-scale environmental projects.

- ***The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to include operation and maintenance costs associated with the Lake Worth Inlet Sand Transfer Plant in the Corps annual inlet maintenance budget.***

The Sand Transfer Plant plays an integral role in maintaining the Lake Worth Inlet federal channel, but presently at the sole cost of the local sponsor (Town of Palm Beach) and Palm Beach County. As the corps does provide for annual channel dredging in its O&M budget, the addition of approximately \$300,000/year is far less than the alternative of having to fund an additional dredging event.

This year the Corp of Engineers has included in their budget \$2.5 million for the continued maintenance dredging of Palm Beach Harbor, but there are several policy directives that should be passed by Congress to help support beach and inlet priorities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Beach Restoration

In light of damage to local federally-authorized public beaches caused by Hurricane Sandy, Palm Beach County Beaches experienced \$12 million in damage. The FEMA denial for Hurricane Sandy storm recovery funding on all non- federal beach and dune nourishment projects from Brevard thru Broward will leave in a state of disrepair an estimated damages of over \$50 million. Federal legislation passed to provide funding for victims of this storm did not include general construction funds for Florida beaches; however, a significant amount of FCCE funds most likely will become available for storm-induced sand losses to federal projects (a calculated \$25 M for Debby and a 50% generic estimate for Sandy, pending project specific reports, totals \$66.6 M in federal Rehabilitation Assistance).

Either the federal government must act on providing a supplemental appropriation or the State must partner with impacted local governments to at least provide some level of financial cost-sharing (to address in part the loss of 75% FEMA Category G funding). Otherwise, we risk impacting tourism that is leading the economic recovery in our coastal communities and further we leave miles of beaches, public infrastructure and upland development vulnerable to the next storm event.

Continue to work with the federal government to provide needed repairs to storm damaged beaches. Support funding for the following federally authorized beaches in Palm Beach County.

Jupiter Carlin Beach Restoration

Palm Beach County is requesting \$12,268,000 for planning, engineering, design, permitting, construction, project management, and monitoring for the Jupiter/Carlin Segment of the Palm Beach County, Florida Shore Protection Project. The funding will be used for the second renourishment of the beach adjacent to Jupiter Inlet in Palm Beach County. 80% of the beachfront is public park or hotel. The County received \$581,000 for initial permitting and engineering in 2010.

Ocean Ridge Beach Restoration

Palm Beach County is requesting \$8,630,000 for planning, engineering, design, permitting, construction, project management, and monitoring for the Ocean Ridge Segment of the Palm Beach County, Florida Shore Protection Project. The funding will be used for the second renourishment of the beach adjacent to the South Lake Worth Inlet in Palm Beach County.

CLIMATE COMPACT

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

For the purpose of continued regional collaboration and joint advocacy with the Regional Climate Change Compact Counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe, the Board renews support for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties State and Federal Climate Legislative Program and affirms its support for the Compact Counties' Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program, including the following specific provisions:

Infrastructure Investments:

The Board supports federal legislation or elements of proposed bills that would create and fund a national infrastructure bank or other new infrastructure funding source to finance projects needed by state and local governments to adapt to the impacts of climate change and the growing regional needs for improved infrastructure with emphasis on investments in areas such as water management, water supply, transportation and other projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce risks to urban infrastructure from extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

The Board supports proposals to create a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA). WIFIA could lower the capital costs for water infrastructure projects by borrowing U.S. Treasury funds at Treasury interest rates and then supporting loans, loan guarantees, and other credit mechanisms to water utilities. WIFIA could also loan funds directly to State Revolving Funds, allowing them to leverage more projects by reducing the cost of borrowing. Given that this proposal involves loans that will be repaid, rather than grants, it may be particularly attractive in the current political climate because there would be minimal long-term impact on the federal deficit. The funds would be repaid to the Authority, and then to the Treasury, with interest.

National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience:

The Board supports the Strengthening the Resilience of Our Nation on the Ground (STRONG) Act, which directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to lead an interagency working group of Cabinet-level participants to perform an analysis of Federal agencies' efforts in the areas of short- and long-term extreme weather resilience across various key sectors and to develop an extreme weather resiliency action plan; supports public and private resilience planning efforts and information-sharing at the state and local level; and directs FEMA to identify existing federal programs which could support local resilience projects.

SUPPORT - the creation by Executive order of a National Climate Council to coordinate a national policy on climate mitigation and adaptation and the development of guidelines and strategies to advance community resilience and preparedness in the face of extreme weather events and the long-term impacts of climate change. In addition, the Compact partners support the full participation of local and regional government representatives on the Council, including the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and other entities activities engaged in climate mitigation and adaptation planning on a regional scale.

Adaptation Action Areas:

The Board supports specific recognition of an "Adaptation Action Area" through designation in federal legislation for those regions, such as Southeast Florida, that are uniquely vulnerable to climate impacts, including sea level rise, for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure needs and adaptation planning. This specifically includes support for the inclusion of Adaptation Action Area language by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other federal agencies.

Program Funding and Implementation Restrictions:

The Board opposes reductions to critically important and ongoing conservation, public health, scientific, and environmental protection efforts through funding limits or program implementation restrictions that would undermine initiatives key to economic growth and job creation; the protection of our Nation's valuable natural resources; and efforts critical to mitigate for, and adapt to, the impacts of a changing climate. This specifically includes program provisions or restrictions on appropriations that preclude agencies from implementing agency policy statements on climate adaptation.

Climate Science:

The Board supports the creation of a National Climate Service within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a means of providing climate-related science and technical products needed by state and local governments to prepare for the potential impacts of global climate change.

The Board also supports adequate funding for the completion of the National Climate Assessment process currently underway under the auspices of the U S Global Change Research Act of 1990, which requires a report to the President and the Congress that evaluates, integrates and interprets the findings of the \$2.6 billion federal research program on global change every four years.

Additionally, the Board supports funding to ensure that the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) is launched as quickly as possible. The JPSS will replace the current pair of polar-orbiting meteorological satellites which were critical in accurately forecasting the path of Hurricane Sandy and other tropical storms. One of the current satellites is expected to go offline in 2016, reducing the data available to forecasters by 50 percent.

The Board also supports the creation, renewal and continuation of federal programs and initiatives providing grant funding, and technical and other planning services to aid communities in their efforts to build resilience through energy diversification, sustainable practices, and climate adaptation (such as EECBG, Sustainable Communities, FEMA pilot projects, etc.).

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE):

The Board supports federal legislation that furthers local Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) efficiency and renewable energy improvements. To ensure regional and national success it is imperative that the Congress pass legislation that removes barriers to PACE and PACE-like programs.

Oil Exploration and Drilling:

The Board opposes oil drilling and exploration in federal waters on Florida's Outer Continental Shelf and within the Everglades.

Everglades Restoration:

The Board supports the reintroduction and passage of the Everglades for the Next Generation Act (S. 3509 in the previous Congressional session), which would expedite implementation of projects related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

The Board also supports a continued focus on Everglades Restoration as essential component of protecting regional water supply and building regional climate resilience.

COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT/HERBERT HOOVER DIKE

The federal share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is expected to average about \$200 million per year over the lifetime of the project. Federal appropriations should be sufficient to fully implement all plan components at the agreed upon cost share in accordance with adopted project schedules.

The failure of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee could have disastrous effects on the surrounding region, including Palm Beach County. Reports have indicated that the Dike does not meet federal safety standards and may pose a threat to people and the environment. The Dike is currently undergoing rehabilitation with an estimated date of completion of 2030. The Board also supports any and all actions by the federal government to expedite full rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The Corps budget request seeks \$161 for CERP (South Florida Ecosystem Restoration line item) and \$153 million for the Herbert Hoover Dike.

NUMERIC NUTRIENT CRITERIA RULEMAKING

In November 2010, the U.S. EPA extended a delay on the implementation of the new numeric nutrient criteria rule. The new rule would have imposed new water quality criteria on lakes, canals and other water bodies in a well intended effort to improve the environment. The County's concern was that the new criteria are excessively stringent, even exceeding the federal limits required for treated drinking water.

These excessive criteria threatened the County's \$250 million investment in its reclaimed water system, which irrigates golf courses and green spaces countywide, and which

conserves nearly 25 million gallons per day of freshwater. The nitrogen and phosphorus in the reclaimed water far exceed amounts allowed in the proposed rule. Even though some nutrients are absorbed by irrigated plants, lakes which store reclaimed water or which contribute to downstream runoff will not comply with the rule and will require additional treatment.

The County was not alone in asking the EPA for postponement. The EPA's Science Advisory Board concluded that the methods used to determine the new limits were seriously flawed and not scientifically defensible. Both of Florida's United States Senators, 23 members of Florida's Congressional delegation, three (3) former Chiefs of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Association of Counties, Florida municipalities, homeowner associations, and scientific associations and organizations have petitioned the EPA to delay implementation of the rule.

On November 30, 2012 US EPA approved FDEP's version of Numeric Nutrient Criteria. EPA's approval should be strongly supported by local governments. However, significant concerns remain with the Agency's decision to propose additional rules to fill in "gaps" in the Florida regulations concerning certain streams (i.e. ditches), tidal creeks/streams and also for estuaries.

Continue to monitor federal implementation of the rule and ensure any additional rules regarding NNC are based on sound scientific research.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program is an innovative local government financing program that allows a property owner to apply for funds to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements that will reduce their energy costs. Participation in the program is voluntary and repayment is accomplished through a property tax assessment on the participating home or business.

Over 200 local jurisdictions across the country have established or are in the process of establishing PACE programs. However, on July 6, 2010, the Federal Housing Finance Administration (FHFA) issued a statement in which it concluded that the PACE program was not a "traditional tax assessment" and took a series of steps that will prevent PACE assessments from being considered senior to mortgage obligations, as other municipal assessments are treated, and will severely limit or eliminate the use of PACE programs. The FHFA's action threatens the viability of residential PACE programs, which in turn will hamper job creation and deny property owners an opportunity to responsibly reduce their energy consumption, reduce their utility bills, and benefit their community.

PACE is not a loan, but instead is built on traditional tax assessments, which local governments have managed for over 100 years. PACE was not designed to increase the risk of homeowners, business owners, lenders, or the financial system, and was created with stringent operating rules, to ensure a net positive benefit to all parties. When fully

implemented, PACE can achieve significant energy savings, provide positive benefits to the environment and generate local jobs.

Support legislation requiring the Director of the Federal Housing Agency (FHA) to direct the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) to issue guidance providing that the levy of a PACE (property assessed clean energy) assessment and the creation of a PACE lien do not constitute a default on any loan secured by one of its uniform instruments, and do not trigger the exercise of remedies with respect to any provision of the instrument. Legislation should list as PACE improvements any qualified clean energy improvements, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, and water conservation and efficiency improvements.

Legislation should detail obligations of property owners with respect to PACE assessments, and requires the local government to disclose to the participating property owner the costs and risk associated with participating in the PACE program.

FARM BILL

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. The program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection. The WRP under Executive Order 12866 was amended in 2008 in Section 1467.4(e) to prohibit local governments from participating in the program. Over the years, Palm Beach County has purchased and restored over 35,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land. Two parcels in particular, The Loxahatchee Slough and Winding Waters Natural Areas had over 5,000 acres restored with assistance from two WRP grants awarded in July 2007. Those federal dollars were put to immediate use in the form of contracts with local vendors who carried out the restoration. In fact, the restoration work at Winding Waters Natural Area was used on August 11, 2011 as the backdrop for Agricultural Secretary Vilsac's announcement of sending \$100 million WRP dollars to south Florida to do restoration and gain conservation easements over restored wetlands on private property in the headwaters of the Florida Everglades. Restore local government participation in the WRP.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND DISASTER RELIEF

PORT SECURITY FUNDING

Monitor grant opportunities for port security funding. The Administration's FY13 budget requests creates a new \$1.54 billion "National Preparedness Grant Program", which

consolidates and restructures several stand-alone DHS/FEMA grant programs, including: state homeland security grants, UASI, transportation and infrastructure protection [rail, port, bus], urban search and rescue, medical surge grants [MMRS], citizen corps, and the pre-disaster mitigation fund. The program would be administered primarily through formula allocations to the states, but would also entail competitive grants to states and regions for specific policy areas, including critical infrastructure, counterterrorism, and transportation.

FEMA FUNDING FOR PARKS & RECREATION/PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAMS

Monitor any legislation concerning reauthorization of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act particularly language that would have a significant negative impact on parks and recreation areas. Specifically language should be opposed that denies funding under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act for disaster relief to parks, recreation departments, beaches and other similar entities. Also, monitor any proposals for FEMA to offer pre-disaster mitigation pilot grants in communities throughout the nation (a total of \$220 million was authorized over a 6-year period).

PITTMAN ROBERTSON – FUNDING FOR PUBLIC RANGES

Monitor changes to the Pittman-Robertson Act (i.e. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration of 1937) that would require 10% of license collections to be spent on public shooting ranges. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission currently administers collections and has allocated \$1.2 million to the County's Public Shooting Range Project which will only fund a small portion of the design and construction expenses for a range to serve the County's large population of gun owners. Congressional support is requested for any changes which increase allocations to public shooting ranges.

Representative Heath Shuler (D- NC) introduced the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (HR 3065) last session. The bill amends the Pittman-Robertson Act to authorize a state to pay up to 90% of the costs of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range, among other things. While the legislation passed in the house, it did not in the Senate.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING (BYRNE GRANTS, GANG VIOLENCE & REENTRY PROGRAMS)

The Criminal Justice Commission administers the federal block grant allocations from the Dept. of Justice for Palm Beach County. They include the Edward Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Fund and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Fund. Monitor the Byrne Law Enforcement Funds and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to keep these allocations separate and to restore previous year funding cuts.

Support the President's proposed FY13 spending plan, including increasing the funding for COPS hiring and retention grants from \$166 million this year to \$257 million next year. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants have been increased from \$370 million in FY12 to \$430 million in the Administration's FY 13 proposal.

The budget proposes several new initiatives, including \$25 million for a community-based violence prevention initiative intended to reduce gun and other violence among youth gangs that should be pursued for local programs in Palm Beach County.

For prisoner reentry and diversion programs, the FY13 Justice Department proposed budget of \$153 million would include \$80 million for Second Chance Act programs and \$52 million for grants supporting drug courts, mental health services and other diversion programs. In addition, the Labor Department would provide \$85 million for reintegration of ex-offender training programs, slightly more than the \$80 million available this year, and the Education Department would provide \$17 million for workplace and community training grants for incarcerated individuals, the same as is available this year. Support programs that promote re-entry programs.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

The Board supports the continued appropriation of funds for mental health services. It is estimated that untreated and mistreated mental illness costs American business, government and taxpayers \$113 billion annually. Continue to support efforts to develop evidence based, community care that is accessible to all as well as treatment models that provide for a coordinated continuum of care for patients. Funding efforts should not be solely focused on treating those with the most disabling forms of mental illness, but rather a range of prevention, wellness, and crisis treatment as well as educational outreach to reduce the stigmatism surrounding mental health.

ICE FACILITY/BELLE GLADE

The federal government decided not to move forward with the construction of a new 1,500 bed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in the Town of Southwest Ranches Broward County. The Department's announcement has subsequently put on hold any decisions to build or expand in Florida. Monitor actions regarding any future construction of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in South Florida. Continue to advocate for the Glades Region correctional facilities as a possible location to house ICE detainees.

FEDERAL CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

For years members of Congress from Florida and other coastal states have proposed creating a regional or national catastrophe fund to pool the risk for states and reduce the burden on taxpayers from natural disasters.

Under a current House proposal, a portion of homeowner's insurance premiums in participating states would be used to create a national fund. It would provide reinsurance for state disaster funds, and it would be financially backed if necessary by the federal government.

Federal Catastrophic Insurance could be modeled similar to the Federal Flood Insurance Fund and could cover hurricanes, floods, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

MAPPING UPDATES FOR FLOOD AREAS

Flood zones are land areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) describing a land area in terms of its risk of flooding. Flood hazard maps are updated periodically but often take a considerable amount of time between subsequent updates. That time differential creates inadequate flood risk notification for homeowners and may cause some homeowners to pay inflated insurance costs when it may not be required. Work with FEMA to ensure timely updates of their flood hazard maps.

VETERANS/PENSION POACHER

HR 5648 filed in 2010 by Congressman Tom Rooney and Gus Bilirakis provides criminal penalties against any person who solicits, contracts for, charges, or receives any fee or compensation from a veteran other than that currently permitted under law.

Individuals known as "pension poachers" are those who charge to ostensibly assist seniors with applying for benefits, but often times are trying to do little more than prey on America's elderly and disabled veterans. Support legislation that would make it easier to identify individuals participating in these types of scams that have compromised a veteran's ability to receive their pension benefits.

FUNDING FOR ENHANCED LIGHTING IN HIGH CRIME AREAS

In an effort to continue promoting safety in high crime areas, grant opportunities should be created to enhance lighting in these areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE

SOUTH FLORIDA INLAND PORT

The development of an inland intermodal logistics complex in Western Palm Beach County, including completion of rail connections serving ports of South Florida and Tampa Bay,

would create a significant economic boost to an area that is fiscally depressed. At the same time, it will provide a critical link in Florida's ability to efficiently handle rapidly growing levels of international commerce. Land in Western Palm Beach County is currently being reviewed for the project.

Bringing this project to fruition will require (1) connectivity between the ports of Palm Beach, Miami-Dade County, Everglades (Broward County), Tampa and Manatee County with approximately 40 miles of new trackage estimated to cost approximately \$45 million and (2) workforce training dollars for the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades region that has been designated as severely depressed, to bring sustained, good-paying jobs (reflecting the Florida average of \$49,000 a year for cargo transportation and logistics employment) and training for hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled positions estimated between 9,892 – 23,858 jobs.

This inland facility, which has gained significant regional support, would be a hub for goods assembly, warehousing and manufacturing, as well as furnishing logistics providers with a central intermodal location between ports that lack sufficient waterfront acreages to accommodate trade volumes projected to double by 2020. This would create additional options for freight movement and distribution from Post-Panama ships heading to South Florida.

108 LOAN PROGRAM FUNDING

Section 108 is the loan guarantee provision of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Section 108 provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects. A public entity may apply for up to five times the public entity's latest approved CDBG entitlement amount, minus any outstanding Section 108 commitments and/or principal balances of Section 108 loans. Support future federal allocations for section 108 funding and work with the federal and state government to increase funding eligibility from five times the budget to a higher ratio. This would allow for additional economic development through housing investments.