



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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June 27, 2006

Ms. Sue Cobb
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Cobb:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections, House Bill 1115, enacted during the 108th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2006 and entitled:

An act relating to South Florida Regional Transportation Authority...

House Bill 1115 clarifies the amount each of the counties served by the Authority -- Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Broward counties -- must dedicate and transfer annually to the Authority for capital funding (\$2.67 million) and increases the annual operational funding that must be provided by each county from \$1.565 million to not less than \$4.2 million.

The bill deletes the provision allowing the three counties to collect a \$2 fee on initial and renewal vehicle registrations within their boundaries upon approval by referendum and deletes the reference to "commuter rail" to reflect the authority's broader transit mission. The bill provides that the state will not limit or alter the rights vested in the Authority to sell revenue bonds until all the bonds issued by the Authority are paid off and discharged.

Additionally, the bill includes a provision which directs the counties served by the Authority to dedicate a minimum of \$45 million annually from an undefined state local option tax as a recurring funding source, to be directed to the Authority to fund operating and capital expenses. If a state authorized local option tax is adopted by all three counties, the annual contributions of \$2.67 million and \$4.2 million required to be made to the Authority for operating and capital expenses will be replaced by the new funding source.



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Although not explicitly stated in the bill, House Bill 1115 assumes the passage of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1350 authorizing a \$2 increase on the rental car surcharge. Because I vetoed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1350, I believe it would be in the best interest of the Authority and its county members to veto this bill and allow current law to remain in effect. This action maintains the existing financial contributions of Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Broward counties and further authorizes increased funding for the Authority upon voter approval of a \$2 increase in vehicle registration fees.

For the reasons stated above, I am hereby withholding my approval of House Bill 1115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the name "Jeb Bush" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font.

Jeb Bush