

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the future of the Tierra Verde and St. Pete Beach bridges. Senator Jones and I share your concerns and would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on this very important issue.

Both of us have been working on your behalf for over a year and a half to make certain that the needed bridges are built at reasonable costs to the residents who will use the bridges most. Please understand that this continues to be a work in progress and we will continue to fight for you.

As you know, the first toll schedule presented by the Florida Department of Transportation raised concerns because it was based on fees required if FDOT had to bond the entire construction cost amount. This was their worst-case scenario. Many assumed this was the final toll schedule and were justifiably upset. Unfortunately, considerable misinformation resulted. However, the current facts reveal a much more favorable situation.

Following our continued meetings and discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation, we are pleased to received confirmation that FDOT will leave in place and not challenge the \$15 fee for Bayway Isles, Point Brittany and Isla Del Sol, and surrounding residents.

The second major issue we have been working on for sometime has been a return of approximately \$18.8 million redirected by the Legislature in 1995. We are still negotiating with FDOT on this issue, however, to date we have received estimates from FDOT of possibly \$23.9 million.

While there are still numerous issues to be resolved, please know that we will continue working for the best possible outcome for the residents of the affected areas.

Again, thank you for voicing your concerns on this very important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you need any further information or updates.

Senator Dennis L. Jones

and

Representative Jim Frishe