

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIGITAL COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

- WASHINGTON OFFICE:
- 2112 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-5755
 - DISTRICT OFFICES:
 - 7132 LITTLE ROAD
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34694-5514
(727) 232-2921
 - 600 KLOSTERMAN ROAD
ROOM BB38
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-1299
(727) 940-5860

January 25, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Executive Order to Expedite Infrastructure Project Review

Dear President Trump:

As the Representative of a district in serious need of infrastructure for emergency evacuation, I greatly appreciate your recent Executive Order, "Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects."

Adjacent to the Gulf Coast, Pasco County, Florida regularly experiences flooding during both major and minor storms. Most recently, Hurricane Hermine caused \$89 million in damages in Pasco County, damaging 2,672 homes and properties and displacing thousands of constituents. A majority of the damage was due to excessive flooding.

Unfortunately, during a flood event, people are limited in their roadway options to evacuate the area, putting their lives at risk. Over twenty years ago, Pasco County diagnosed this concern and proposed an eastward extension of Ridge Road, which is expected to facilitate the evacuation of 178,000 people who live within two miles of the road and have no other timely egress from coastal areas.

In November, 1998, Pasco County submitted its Ridge Road proposal to the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps). For the last eighteen years, this important project has been stuck in a quagmire of federal regulations and repetitive procedures in the Army Corps review process. Your Executive Order to "streamline and expedite . . . environmental reviews and approvals for all infrastructure projects" is sorely needed by people around the nation who need these potentially life-saving evacuation routes.

I respectfully call on you and the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to designate the Ridge Road infrastructure project as a "high priority" under Section 2 of your Executive Order due to its general welfare importance. After nearly twenty years of waiting, the people of Pasco County deserve an effective evacuation route during a natural disaster, and we are so grateful for your leadership on this.

Thank you for your consideration and review of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gus M. Bilirakis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress