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To Whom it May Concern:

As the Representative of a district in serious need for improved emergency evacuation routes, I write to once again express my support for the Ridge Road Extension project in Pasco County. For many years I have supported the completion of this project, including submitting letters and engaging in in-person exchanges with the Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Governor Rick Scott, and President Donald Trump.

The importance of this project was envisioned in 1998; however, the project has been mired in permitting stages for years. Meanwhile, the population growth on the coast of both Pasco and Pinellas counties makes the need for the Ridge Road Extension and hurricane evacuation route even more important than twenty years ago.

With the recent results of Hurricane Michael, the reality of what can happen due to inadequate evacuations for the roughly 178,000 people who live within two miles of the existing road and have no other timely egress from coastal areas is profound.

In the last year, the Army Corps of Engineers has been very proactive in reviewing this project and moving the county closer to the construction phase. I encourage the Army Corps to continue its review on an expedited basis. As the federal representative of Pasco County, I stand at the ready to help get this project to completion for the safety of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress