

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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

July 19, 2017

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Cindy Sanborn
Chief Operating Officer, CSX Corporation
500 Water Street, 15th Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32202

RE: Crossing Arm Malfunctions at Intersection of U.S. 41 and S.R. 54

Dear Ms. Sanborn:

As the federal representative of Pasco County, I write to express my concerns regarding the ongoing malfunction of CSX controlled crossing arms at the intersection of U.S. 41 and State Route 54. I have appreciated your swift and remedial action when I reached out to you in the past, and I expect you will act with equal concern in addressing this potential public safety issue.

These roads serve as an important hub for commuters with approximately 100,000 vehicles traversing the intersection on a daily basis. This traffic will only continue to grow as Pasco County sees increased development as one of the fastest growing counties in the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Additionally, State Route 54 serves as one of only two existing east-west evacuation routes that carry the county's over 218,000 coastal evacuation area residents to I-75 in the event of an emergency.

Unfortunately, these commuters have been exposed to intermittent and unpredictable CSX crossing arm malfunctions, which have resulted in severe delays and safety concerns for Pasco drivers and residents. These arms have inadvertently closed off access to the intersection on at least eighteen occasions in the past year, causing massive delays with hours long commutes. More importantly, if these crossing arms were to malfunction during a severe weather threat, tens-of-thousands of Pasco residents could be trapped on the roads during an emergency evacuation.

I urge you to review and remedy this reoccurring situation as quickly as possible. The safety of our residents is of the utmost concern.

Thank you for your consideration and review of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gus M. Bilirakis", with a horizontal line underneath.

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Cc:

Pasco County Board of County Commissioners' Office

Pasco County Sheriff's Office

Florida Department of Transportation