



Letters to the Editor

Thursday letters: Crist's veto stopping a raid on the transportation trust fund was a job-saver

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Raid on transportation trust fund - Crist's veto helped to save jobs

Following the end of the legislative session, a certainly bleak future faced those of us in the transportation construction business. Tough times were poised to be even more dismal with \$160 million positioned to be hijacked from transportation funding. However, to our surprise, a leader actually took an action to spur the economy and save jobs, rather than just talk about it.

With the stroke of a pen, Gov. Charlie Crist strengthened Florida's work force and kept the state from slipping into an even further economic falter with the line-item veto of the multimillion dollar sweep of the state transportation trust fund. This veto of ill-conceived legislation not only saved approximately 11,000 jobs but also kept more than \$400 million in statewide road projects from being postponed — projects which keep my company in business and reduce congestion on Florida's roadways.

Florida history has shown a thriving transportation industry gives way to the growth and strengthening of the state's economy. If Gov. Crist had ignored this irresponsible raid, many of my employees' livelihoods would have been at stake.

As a small business owner and member of the Florida Transportation Builders' Association, I would like to sincerely thank Gov. Crist for keeping the trust fund intact. Without this veto, thousands of Florida workers would have been let go and many Florida businesses would have been forced to shut their doors for good.

Jeff Nelson, president, David Nelson Construction, *Palm Harbor*