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**Subject:** RE: Central Florida Commuter Rail  
**Date:** Sunday, April 6, 2008 7:38 PM  
**From:** DOCKERY.PAULA.WEB <DOCKERY.PAULA.WEB@flsenate.gov>  
**To:** Beth Dillaha <bethdillaha@yahoo.com>

Beth,  
Thank you for your email. Your information was very interesting regarding the vote and I loved Rep. Davis piece.  
Can I share it with others or would you rather your name not be mentioned?  
Paula

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**From:** Beth Dillaha [mailto:bethdillaha@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2008 10:32 PM  
**To:** DOCKERY.PAULA.WEB  
**Subject:** Central Florida Commuter Rail

Dear Senator Dockery:

I've been following the many articles and editorials written against Central Florida Commuter Rail as published in the Lakeland, Tampa, Ocala and other local and regional publications. I reside in Central Florida where no such articles or editorials are printed by the *Orlando Sentinel*.

I am newly elected to the Winter Park City Commission. Commuter Rail was very hotly contested here and became a political issue with strong backing by the local Chamber of Commerce, realtors and developers. In fact, a PAC was formed to push it through. This became so hotly contested that the citizens, not trusting the City Commission at the time, managed to collect enough signatures to get the issue on the ballot and to the voters of our city. The night before the election (a year ago March), Congressman John Mica placed a "town meeting conference call" to the super voters of our city. The measure for Commuter Rail passed by 275 votes. The *Sentinel* editorial board lobbied the citizens of Central Florida endlessly in order to garner support for Commuter Rail.

I have followed the issue very closely for the last two or more years. During that time, I began corresponding with Rep. Steve Davis in Atlanta. Attached is a copy of an editorial (published in the AJC) he sent to the Mayor and Commissioners of Winter Park. His correspondence was ignored.

As an elected official, it is my duty to support the passage of the Commuter Rail referendum and we (the city) are looking at a design for a “stop” in our Central Park. However, I voted against the measure recognizing – as you have – that this represents a huge taxpayer burden with no real benefit. Very few are expected to ride. The CR routing runs through small towns disrupting traffic flow over 50 times per day. The speed of the Commuter Rail cars will be reduced due to its routing through cities. This is inefficient. Cost estimates continue to escalate, municipalities’ budgets are being squeezed and we are looking at significant tax payer burden if no dedicated funding source is obtained. Then, there is the liability we must incur for any accidents on the rails CSX will still utilize.

I am all for reducing commute times and getting cars off the road. However, this is not the solution. Let’s PLAN for a light rail line that runs along I-4 which causes no interruption in traffic flow to our cities and is faster and more efficient or examine Bus Rapid Transit or plan employment centers? I, for one, would like to see the state PLAN projects that benefit the citizens of Florida for today and tomorrow and refrain from boondoggle projects that benefit the special few.

Keep up your good work and thank you for all you do.

Best regards,

Beth Dillaha  
City Commissioner, Winter Park  
407.620.2315