

City of DeLand

"The Athens of Florida" www.deland.org

120 South Florida Avenue DeLand, Florida 32720-5481 Telephone: (386) 626-7000 Fax: (386) 626-7140

May 1, 2007

Mr. Alex Kummant, CEO Amtrak 60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Kummant:

It is our understanding that Sunset Limited service has not yet been restored to the east since Hurricane Katrina. Until Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amtrak's Sunset Limited linked the City of DeLand to New Orleans and points west. This service is important to tourism and commerce in the Central Florida area. Since Hurricane Katrina passed through Florida and the upper Golf Coast states, the Sunset Limited has resumed running westbound from New Orleans. Amtrak has yet to announce a date that Sunset Limited service will resume to the east, despite the fact that hurricane-damaged railroad tracks, signals, and bridges have been restored along this route.

We hope that you will consider allowing service to resume as soon as possible so that this vital link is restored. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Apgar Mayor - Commissioner

RFA:sp p/apgar/Amtrak

cc:

Jackson McQuigg, FCRP
Governor Charlie Crist
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Mel Martinez
Congressman John Mica
Congresswoman Corrine Brown