



TRUE NORTH LAW

A National Authority in Complex, Constitutional and Appellate Litigation.

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January 3, 2020

Ann D. Begeman
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Sarasota, Florida Legacy Rail-Trail Corridor

Dear Chairperson Begeman,

I have enclosed a letter and exhibits I am sending Assistant Attorney General Jeff Clark regarding a matter of significant consequence concerning the Surface Transportation Board's taking of private property from hundreds of landowners. The Board's implementation of the federal Trails Act violated the constitutional rights of thousands of landowners. This matter has come to a head with the Sarasota County Legacy Rail-Trail. As I explain in my letter to Assistant Attorney General Clark, the Board's implementation of the Trails Act has been extraordinarily costly to taxpayers and has been a massive taking of private property.

I want to make sure you are personally aware of this controversy as it merits your personal attention as a member of the Surface Transportation Board. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important matter.

You may reach me anytime on my personal cell phone at 314-229-5512. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mark F. (Thor) Hearne, II

Enclosures