

THE FLORIDA SENATE SENATOR BILL GALVANO President

December 6, 2018

Florida Chamber Foundation 136 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Attendees of the Florida Growth and Infrastructure Summit:

Thank you for attending this important event. The Florida Chamber Foundation is a leader in seeking innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing Florida's economy. This Summit is a great opportunity for you to participate in a conversation on issues of critical importance to the future of our state.

The future of our economy and its ability to diversify and grow is tied to our infrastructure and our investment therein, from transportation to water, communications to power. We have a responsibility to think innovatively when it comes to infrastructure, so we are not just meeting the needs of today and mitigating the needs of yesterday, but anticipating the needs of tomorrow.

Recent estimates indicate over the next six years, our state will gain over 850 people a day, effectively adding a population equal to a city slightly larger than Orlando every year. We must be ready. With proper planning, we can attract technology and not just tourists. We can be a target for venture capital, for job creators, for start-ups. Hand-in-hand with growing an economy is a trained and skilled workforce with a nexus to the demands of that economy. Our goal should be to continue to grow high-paying, skilled jobs. In light of today's world, we must also make sure we do everything we can to make Floridians secure and safe at all levels with our infrastructure, cyberspace, and, unfortunately, at our schools.

The Florida Chamber Foundation has been a partner in all of these areas. I am certain this Summit will foster even more innovative ideas that will keep our state strong and in a position where families find prosperity and where private sector innovators come to start, expand, and grow their businesses.

Respectfully,

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Bill Galvano