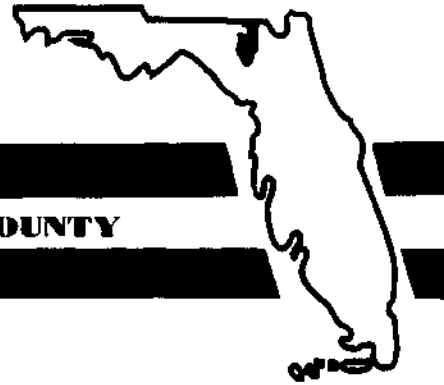


District No. 1 - Ronald Williams
District No. 2 - Dewey Weaver
District No. 3 - Jody DuPree
District No. 4 - Stephen E. Bailey
District No. 5 - Scarlet P. Frisina



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY

November 3, 2009

Honorable Ander Crenshaw, Congressman
U. S. Congress
1061 Riverside Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Dear Congressman Crenshaw,

Columbia County was approached by Mike Harling of Municipal Markets Capital Group of Dallas, Texas regarding his company building and financing a private prison that would contract with the Federal Bureau of Prison (FBOP) to house illegal aliens. The illegal aliens would be deported from the U. S. upon completion of their prison time. Mr. Harling has emphasized that there is no legal financial responsibility on behalf of Columbia County if the FBOP decides to contract with his firm to build this facility. The facility bond issue would be paid off via a contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons based on a per diem for prisoners housed in the facility.

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners offered support based on four conditions:

1. Private entity with no public financing from Columbia County.
2. There will be no adverse impact on any other governmental entity in Columbia County.
3. The facility, as a private entity, will pay ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments as levied by Columbia County.
4. The County will have the opportunity to further consider the proposal and its impact on Columbia County before giving their final approval on the project.

The Commissioners have some concern and would appreciate your assistance in obtaining a clarification letter from the Federal Bureau of Prisons:

1. Does the FBOP plan to build or contract to build a federal prison site in Columbia County?
2. If so, is there funding available to construct and operate this facility?
3. Is there any legal liability on behalf of Columbia County in constructing this facility if it is indeed funded and awarded?

Congressman Crenshaw, we appreciate your help and support in insuring that Columbia County has the necessary information to make a good decision on a proposed project of this nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Stephen E. Bailey
County Commissioner

BOARD MEETS FIRST THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.
AND THIRD THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.