



The Florida House of Representatives

Democratic Leader's Office

Representative Fentrice Driskell

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The Honorable Paul Renner
420 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Daniel Perez
FIU MARC Building Suite 322
1550 Southwest 109th Avenue
Miami, FL 33199-0001

Via Email

Dear Messrs. Speaker and Speaker-designate:

I am writing today to address the course of action being taken in response to the governor's aggressive and dangerous use of his line-item veto of this year's budget and a path forward that will ensure all Floridians have the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.

While his nearly \$57 million cut in legislative funding and the hundreds of state workers who support our efforts here is unprecedented, so, too, was his total elimination of many other needed programs including: statewide arts and culture funding; public health programs making feminine hygiene products available in public schools; needed civil legal aid projects; first-responder funding for firefighters and others; as well as many critical infrastructure and water projects required for the long-term viability of our communities. All of these project vetoes will impact untold jobs and reduce needed economic activity. There is great potential for damage to be done in our communities that have had significant, ill-advised line-item vetoes on nearly unanimous budget projects thanks to the Governor's hasty veto pen.

I was surprised to learn the Legislature discovered an ability to restore funding for legislative staff and support services notwithstanding the Governor's line-item vetoes, which have not been overwritten by the Legislature according to the State

Constitution. I urge you to use this same procedure and funding source to restore the aforementioned projects immediately.

Our communities cannot wait for this assistance; many jobs are on the line now. Increasingly severe weather is producing expensive natural disasters. The Florida Legislature overwhelmingly supported all the vetoed projects on a bipartisan basis in both chambers because we recognize Floridians need this crucial funding now.

With great urgency, I also ask for the proclamation of a Special Session immediately following the Organizational Session in November to overturn these ill-advised vetoes, or to pass a supplemental funding bill to restore these crucial funds. While the Organizational Session is constitutionally limited in scope, a Special Session that convenes immediately after the Organizational Session gavel out will not be so limited. This timing also means the Special Session will not involve significant cost or disruption since the entire legislative body will already be in Tallahassee.

Let us do our jobs and do good for our constituents who sent us to Tallahassee to fight for them. Not only can we confirm our principal role in appropriations by restoring our own support services funding, but we can also insist on the investments we voted for on behalf of our constituents to be added back in the 24-25 FY budget in the form of the other projects that were hastily vetoed.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fentrice D. Driskell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Rep. Fentrice D. Driskell (Fla. Bar No. 833851)
Democratic Leader
Florida House of Representatives