



Monday, December 1, 2003

## Who Do You TRU\$T To Take The “Pledge” On Transportation?

Borrowing a page from the “playbook” of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) – an anti-tax group in Washington, D.C. – the “TRU\$T” Coalition (Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation) recently unveiled the “Transportation Trust Fund Protection Pledge” – the latest phase of the “STOP Highway Robbery!” campaign.

The new Transportation Trust Fund Protection Pledge clearly states, “Florida’s transportation system – our highways, bridges, airports, seaports, railroads, bus and rail transit systems – is the backbone of our state’s economy and the very foundation upon which our quality of life rests.” This TRU\$T Pledge then asks legislators to promise to transportation users in their district and the people of Florida to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to ‘redirect, raid, divert or sweep’ dollars from the State Transportation Trust Fund.”

Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, was the very first legislator to proudly sign this Transportation TRU\$T Pledge on Wednesday, November 19. He was joined a day later by fellow Transportation Committee member, Senator Larcenia Bullard (D-Miami), when she stood up for transportation and signed the TRU\$T Pledge as well. Every member of the Florida Legislature will be asked to sign this important statement of TRU\$T.

The “TRU\$T” Coalition is a group of nearly 20 statewide organizations – including the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) – who are encouraging the governor and legislators to “STOP Highway Robbery!” ([Click here to see related Chamber Insider story.](#)) The “STOP Highway Robbery!” effort is aimed at preventing another \$200 million “raid” on the State’s Transportation Trust Fund and has unleashed a flood of e-mails and letters to the governor and Legislators. Over 2,500 “STOP Highway Robbery!” bumper stickers have also been distributed.

A copy of the TRU\$T Pledge, as well as a list of the courageous Legislators who have signed this promise, can be found on [FBT’s website](http://www.bettertransportation.org) (www.bettertransportation.org).