



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 5, 2012

Honorable Rene Garcia
Florida State Senator
3814 West 12th Avenue
Hialeah, FL 33012

garcia.rene.web@flsenate.gov

Dear Senator Garcia,

I wanted to draw your attention to an amendment that was recently considered and then pulled from *House Bill 449* regarding a state-to-state land swap in which the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund would lease the Bird Drive Everglades Basin parcel to the board of trustees of Florida International University. Within this same amendment, Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition (the Fair) were referenced as potential recipients, via a sublease, of this 350 acre parcel. Using this land for fairgrounds will go against my established position in regards to the Urban Development Boundary. ***If this amendment resurfaces, I would be in opposition with its content as long as it references the use of the parcel as county fairgrounds.***

Over the past 18 months, Miami-Dade County has worked very closely with F.I.U. and the Fair to explore solutions for our landlocked educational institution. The three entities established a committee to work through concepts and have collaborated on the exploration of options. Upon entering into office in July 2012, I too prioritized work with all stakeholders in identifying solutions that will allow F.I.U. to expand; however, any recommendations for expansion will have to be carefully reviewed just like any other project. The Bird Drive Basin parcel may have been on a list of possibilities that were being explored by a committee, but a professional review and recommendation for my consideration has not been submitted.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly or Senior Advisor, Lisa Martinez at 305-375-2911

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez".

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor