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March 6, 2014

The Honorable Greg Evers  
The Florida Senate  
308 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1610 Federal RESTORE Act

Dear Senator Evers,

We are writing to express our support for SB 1610, which clarifies that the process by which counties appropriate funds received through the federal RESTORE Act is subject to Florida's open government requirements. Equally important is the requirement that counties post proposed appropriations of the funds received under the Act on their respective websites at least 30 days *before* the proposed appropriations are acted upon, allowing the public time to review and comment on the proposals. We applaud your attention to this issue, Senator; your legislation will aid in government transparency and the public's right to oversee its government.

We believe SB 1610 to be an important statement of public policy, reinforcing Florida's reputation as the Sunshine State. We greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of all Floridians, Senator Evers. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

cc: The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, The Florida Senate  
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association