



# First Amendment Foundation

Protecting Your Right to Know for 30 Years!

March 22, 2017

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### DAVE WILSON, CHAIRMAN

Senior Editor, *The Miami Herald*

### BOB SHAW, VICE CHAIRMAN

Retired Editor

### MIKE VASILINDA, SECRETARY

### & TREASURER

President, Capitol News Service

### JON KANEY, GENERAL COUNSEL

Jonathan D. Kaney Jr., P.L.L.C.

### JIM BALTZELLE

Director of Regional Media, Southeast

The Associated Press

### DICK BATCHELOR

Founder and President

Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc.

### MIKE DEESON

Senior Reporter, WTSP-TV

### FRANK DENTON

Editor at Large, *Florida Times-Union*

### GARY GREEN

Deputy News Editor and Digital Director

Innovation News Center

### CAROL JEAN LOCICERO

Thomas & LoCicero

### SAMUEL J. MORLEY

General Counsel, Florida Press

Association

### TIM NICKENS

Editor of Editorials, *Tampa Bay Times*

### PATRICK RICE

Editor, *Daytona Beach News-Journal*

### DEAN RIDINGS

President & CEO, Intersect Media

Solutions

### APRIL SALTER

President & Chief Operating Officer

Salter Mitchell

### PETE WEITZEL

Director Emeritus

### CHARLEY WILLIAMS

Past Statewide Voter Services Chair

League of Women Voters

Business Development Director

Geotechnical and Environmental

Consultants, Inc.

### SKIP FOSTER

Publisher & President

Tallahassee Media Group

The Honorable Kevin J. Rader  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street, Room 222 SOB  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 1514 Public Meetings

Dear Senator Rader:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for your bill, SB 1514, amending s. 286.011, F.S., Florida's open meetings law, to broaden the law's notice requirement and strengthen the public's right to speak at public meetings.

We receive numerous comments and complaints regarding the two issues you've tackled in this good bill – the frequent lack of an agenda in the meeting notice and the public's right to address their elected representatives at meetings subject to the sunshine law – and we applaud your efforts to enhance and strengthen our sunshine law, Senator Rader.

Senate Bill 1514 is an important statement of public policy, and will serve to enhance the public's constitutional right to oversee its government and hold it accountable. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Joe Negron, President, The Florida Senate  
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation  
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association