

Pensacola Beach Advocates



Senator Bill Nelson
716 Hart Bldg,
Washington, DC 20510

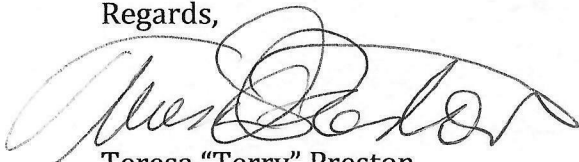
Dear Senator Nelson:

As President of the Pensacola Beach Advocates, I would like to urge you on behalf of our 350 members and the 3800 Pensacola Beach leaseholders, to sponsor a companion bill in the Senate to H.R.2954, the Santa Rosa Island Title Fairness and Land Preservation Act. At our urging and that of our local government officials, Congressman Jeff Miller sponsored this legislation and it passed the House of Representatives on February 6, 2014 and was referred to the Senate on February 10, 2014. It has since been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who have taken no action.

Since passage of H.R. 2954, we have been notified by the Florida Supreme Court that taxation of our leasehold improvements will stand, leaving many on our small island with significant tax bills, continuing lease fees, and no ownership of the property that they are being taxed for. This bill would allow our local government to convey fee simple title to the developed leaseholds on Santa Rosa Island, thus paving the way to end leases and reduce the burden of double taxation on many residents, some of whom are on fixed incomes.

This bill also remedies some issues that are silent in the legislation that originally conveyed Santa Rosa Island to Escambia County. It guarantees that all public lands that are currently held for conservation, recreation or preservation will continue so in PERPETUITY, thus preventing our beautiful natural island resources from being developed in future years. Please take action to pass companion legislation in this Congress and prove to your constituents that we have a Congress that can take bipartisan action!

Regards,



Teresa "Terry" Preston
President, PBA