

DATE

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, I want to thank you for your efforts to make Florida an environment in which hospitality businesses can be successful. I would also like to introduce an issue that could potentially threaten the viability of these businesses.

To be successful, restaurants must deliver top quality meals to diners. For many restaurants, this requires special delivery of their food and ingredients, which is particularly true in the case of fresh seafood. Sometimes these items must be delivered from great distances, and these businesses rely on FedEx Express' overnight shipping services to deliver these items quickly enough to ensure the product's integrity.

Under the 2009 FAA Reauthorization Act, there is discussion to move FedEx Express from its present labor environment to one that could result in disruptions that might jeopardize the timely delivery of the supplies and fresh products that restaurants depend on. I urge your opposition of changes to FedEx Express' regulatory status. It is tough enough for restaurants to succeed in this economic climate – they cannot afford to limit what they can offer customers.

Respectfully,