



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 13, 2007

Mr. Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you with my objections, House Bill 9, enacted during the 39th session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2007, and entitled:

An act relating to trespass . . .

This bill relieves railroad companies of the requirement to post trespass signs before charging persons with violations of Florida's trespass law.

Many citizens treat railroad rights-of-way as public domain. A trespass sign provides notice that the property is privately owned and wards off unauthorized visitors by serving notice that entering onto the posted land may lead to a criminal penalty. Without the requirement to post such signage, railroad police officers will now be empowered to arrest unauthorized visitors without warning--a particularly harsh measure when many trespassers will be innocently unaware that they are breaking the law.

Furthermore, many rail lines run through populous areas and some run contiguous to residential property. Often a "no trespassing" sign is the only thing that stops people, especially our younger generation, from walking along railroad tracks.

While I understand that railroad companies bear a burden in posting, replacing, and maintaining signs over great expanses of railroad property, I believe that saving human lives outweighs that burden. For these reasons, I am withholding my approval of House Bill 9, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

CC/dmm