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Dear Representatives and Senators,

South Baldwin County Alabama is facing unprecedented challenges that are threatening the sustainability of our economy and stifling our potential for recovery and growth. As we continue to navigate through and prepare to rebound from the pandemic, with your help, we are prepared to act.

Your business here is in full support of the proposed South Baldwin Workforce Training Campus. Our tri-city region, which accounts for \$100 million in annual tax revenue from its tourism-based economy, is an estimated 4,000 to 8,000 people short of what our businesses need to give our guests the top-quality vacation experience they expect. Hospitality and Tourism positions account for the majority of what currently cannot be filled. This is largely caused by three things: a lack of housing for seasonal employees, no fixed-route transportation for the workforce, and a lack of childcare options.

Our area has struggled with this for at least the past 20 years, but this year it is much worse given the post-pandemic national recovery. We ask that you please fight for \$210 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds to be allocated to this project. This one-time funding will allow the build out of the campus which will be self-sustaining upon completion. The result will be job creation and business support that will have long term positive impacts for our local and state economy.

The proposal to use American Rescue Plan funding would build a South Baldwin Workforce Training Campus on the Foley Beach Express. This campus will offer the following elements to address employer workforce shortages:

- Housing for seasonal and entry-level workers
- An extended-hour childcare facility
- Education & Training Center with Business Incubator facility to house: 1.) Coastal Alabama Community College, Auburn University Technical Assistance Center, and another four year university presence. 2.) Dormitory housing for students. 3.) Gateway Initiative professional development programming and business start-up consulting
- Collaboration with Baldwin County's Baldwin Rural Area Transit System to develop a fixed route system from campus to area employers

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with a collaboration of tourism, workforce development and education officials. This effort is critical to the future of south Baldwin County and we look forward to you sharing and advocating for this project during the upcoming legislative session in Montgomery.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print name

Your title