

Mayor Abrams.

Vice Mayor Ryan.

Chairman Gonzalez.

Chairman (Broward County Delegation)

Chairman (Palm Beach County Delegation)

Dear friends...

It's my pleasure to be with you this morning / afternoon, for what I believe is truly a defining moment in the relationship between our three counties.

You know, I've often joked that the two man made things you can see from outer space are the Great Wall of China, and the Miami-Dade / Broward County line.

Well, as you can tell from all of us being here, this is no longer the case.

Just a few weeks ago, the mayors from Broward and Palm Beach County met in my office for a first ever Tri-County Meeting.

We spoke about the need to act as a region, and we have realized that in order to move forward, we need to work together.

Let me share some numbers with you just for perspective:

South Florida is the most populous region in the state, with more than 5.6 million people living in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Our regional economy tops \$274 billion, making us the largest economy in the state, and the 11th largest economy in the nation.

As South Florida goes, so does the rest of the state.

And yet, I believe this is the first time we have come together as mayors to harness the economic and political potential of our region.

Through the "Tri-county compact" that we will sign today, we will focus and work as partners on issues that affect us all...

increasing regional mobility through greater transit options, expanding economic and commercial opportunities and jobs, and water quality issues, including the Everglades....

In these matters, our futures are joined together...

And we are here to join with you, our state partners, who are key in helping us reach our goals...

We need your help.

When laws come before you during the legislative session, and you are deciding how to vote, I know you take into account the interests of the constituents in your district.

But I also ask you to think of your constituents up and down the I-95, across our county lines.

So let's think as a region, let's act as a team, and let's work to help advance the opportunity for prosperity in South Florida, and the rest of our state.

Thank you, and I wish you a productive and successful legislative session!

