



The Champion for Business award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

Throughout the 2021 Session, these 10 legislators and the Governor provided outstanding support on critical issues to AIF and our members.

Votes provide tangible evidence of whether a legislator supports the ability of Florida companies to prosper and operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. It is a valuable tool used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators deserve our support. Yet voting records only tell part of the story.

A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes a stand for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate, and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the leaders we



In our collective wisdom, these 10 legislators and the Governor are the epitome of a Champion for Business. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these leaders are the ones who made a difference this session.



Governor Ron DeSantis is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Governor DeSantis for keeping the state safely “open for business” during the pandemic and being a champion for COVID liability protection for Florida’s business community. Without the Governor’s leadership, Florida would not be leading the way in economic recovery.



President Wilton Simpson is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds President Simpson for recognizing the importance of civil liability protections as well as implementing the online sales tax to offset the proposed unemployment tax. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state’s economic recovery and well-being.



Speaker Chris Sprowls is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Speaker Sprowls for recognizing the importance of civil liability protections as well as implementing the online sales tax to offset the proposed unemployment tax. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state’s economic recovery and well-being.

Visit AIF.com for a complete list of past AIF Champions for Business winners.



turned to when we needed someone we could depend upon.



Senator Ben Albritton is receiving his third AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Albritton for sponsoring permit tolling legislation that prevents Florida businesses from being penalized on permitted time due to a state of emergency that is out of their control. Thanks to Senator Albritton's efforts, consumptive use permits and local government development agreements were added to the emergency tolling statute which allows economic recovery to begin as soon as possible following a state of emergency.



Representative Colleen Burton is receiving her first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Burton for her efforts in crafting and shepherding COVID liability legislation to protect health care providers from frivolous lawsuits. Thanks to Representative Burton's tireless efforts, COVID liability health care protections were included in the overall COVID liability legislation. Florida's health care providers can now return to providing high quality care on the frontlines without fear of malicious litigation.



Senator Jeff Brandes is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Brandes for his efforts in sponsoring legislation to provide civil immunity from COVID-19 liability for businesses that acted in good faith during the coronavirus pandemic. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being. Senator Brandes was also a voice of reason during the data privacy debate.



Representative Michael Grant is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Grant for sponsoring permit tolling legislation that prevents Florida businesses from being penalized on permitted time due to a state of emergency that is out of their control. Thanks to Representative Grant's efforts, consumptive use permits and local government development agreements were added to the emergency tolling statute which allows economic recovery to begin as soon as possible following a state of emergency.



Senator Jason Brodeur is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Brodeur on his efforts to provide legal protections for Florida's farmers who provide necessary resources and food to the state. Farmers have a right to farm, and thanks to Senator Brodeur's leadership, the Florida Right to Farm Act will continue to protect these individuals from bad faith litigation and frivolous lawsuits.



Representative Lawrence McClure is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative McClure for his efforts in sponsoring legislation to provide civil immunity from COVID-19 liability for businesses that acted in good faith during the coronavirus pandemic. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being.



Senator Kathleen Passidomo is receiving her third AIF *Champions for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida commends Senator Passidomo for her diligent efforts in working with AIF on the proposed data privacy legislation and allowing the business community to provide input and feedback. AIF thanks Senator Passidomo for her unwavering commitment to the Florida business community.



Representative Jayer Williamson is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Williamson on his efforts to provide legal protections for Florida's farmers who provide necessary resources and food to the state. Farmers have a right to farm, and thanks to Representative Williamson's leadership, the Florida Right to Farm Act will continue to protect these individuals from bad faith litigation and frivolous lawsuits.