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ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

Dear Employer:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this tabulation of the voting conduct of each member of the Florida Legislature during the 2009 Regular Session.

Voting Records reports on the votes made by every legislator on bills that were lobbied, advocated, promoted or opposed by Associated Industries of Florida. By reporting on 11,744 votes cast by legislators on 119 bills, this publication embodies the most exhaustive and complete record of the Legislature's approach to the concerns of Florida's employers.

We go to great lengths to ensure that legislators are aware of AIF's positions on issues of great importance to the business community. Every year before the session begins, we produce AIF's *Session Priorities*, which explains why we support or oppose key issues. In addition, during the session we provide each legislator with a *Daily Brief* on the activities of that day, highlighting bills of interest to business and our positions on those issues. Our greatest asset, however, is our experienced and accomplished legislative team, which has compiled a record of success second to none.

For more than three decades, AIF has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on major business issues. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story. AIF also helps its member companies detect what bills and amendments are filed by whom, and who is taking part in behind-the-scene efforts and debates on behalf of the business community.

These intangible forms of support through non-voting actions are also of vital importance and merit recognition. AIF instituted the "*Champion for Business*" award in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who provide leadership on key legislation. A "*Champion for Business*" is a legislator who takes risks 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 the opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

The nine lawmakers (see page 33) honored this year are the epitome of a "*Champion for Business.*" In addition, we have designated another five legislators for "*Honorable Mention*" and four of our AIF Councils have awarded "*Legislator of the Year*" awards.

AIF's Online Voting Records

AIF is the undisputed leader in providing the business community with comprehensive vote records that allow employers to gauge how legislators are casting votes on bills that affect their businesses.

For over 30 years, AIF has published Voting Records — the definitive legislative scorecard for the business community. With term limits, the historical aspect of a legislator's votes is more important than ever. Former legislators are showing up on the ballot again, and the ability to quickly view their past voting records is critical. In some cases, it will allow employers to match campaign promises with actual votes cast.

The unique software created by AIF provides you with a multitude of options when viewing voting records online. You can choose to see votes by year, legislator's name, subject, and party affiliation. Have one particular legislator in mind? No problem. You can view their vote record by year or by subject matter, and then go even further and see the exact votes that led to the percentage they received. That's right. **Full transparency** ... from a legislator's vote percentage to the very bills and votes that were used that session.

So how robust is this program? It includes over **131,000 votes, 1,200 bills, 687 legislators over the span of 30 years.** *Online Voting Records* — a one-of-a-kind tool only available from Associated Industries of Florida.

131,000 votes, 1,200 bills,
687 legislators over
the span of 30 years

Match campaign promises
with actual votes cast

Full transparency



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

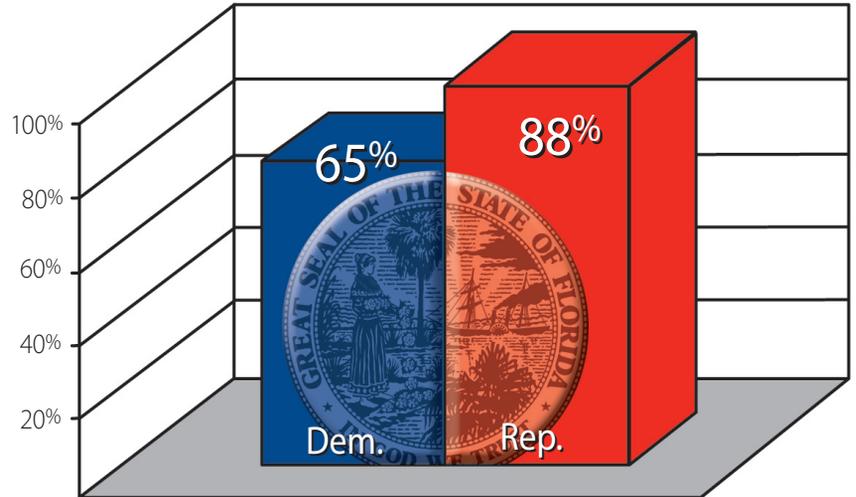
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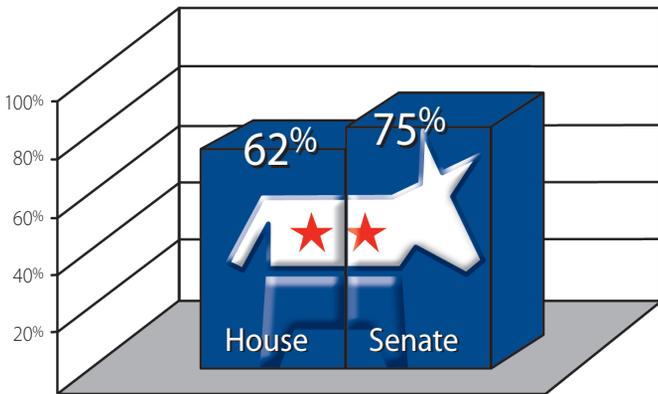
2009 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers*

Knowing how individual legislators cast their votes is extremely important when evaluating their stand on the issues facing our members. However, it is also important to look at the other areas of the data to find clues on how different segments of the Florida Legislature are casting their votes. For instance, which party in which chamber tends to support business issues more than the other? How do the current vote records compare to those from past years? This section will break down different segments of the votes and provide some interesting snapshots of what the mood of the Florida Legislature is on business issues.

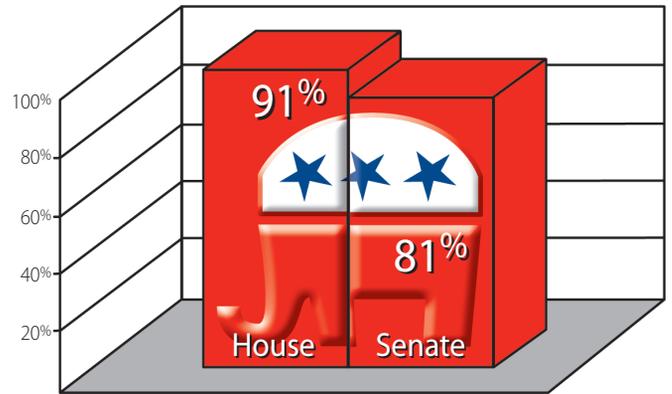
2009 Florida Legislature by Party



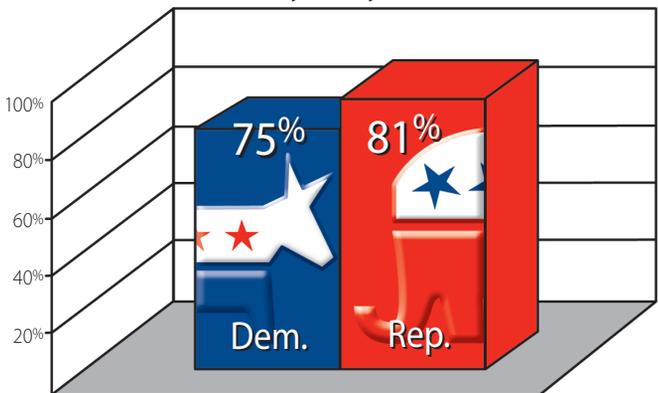
Democrats by Chamber



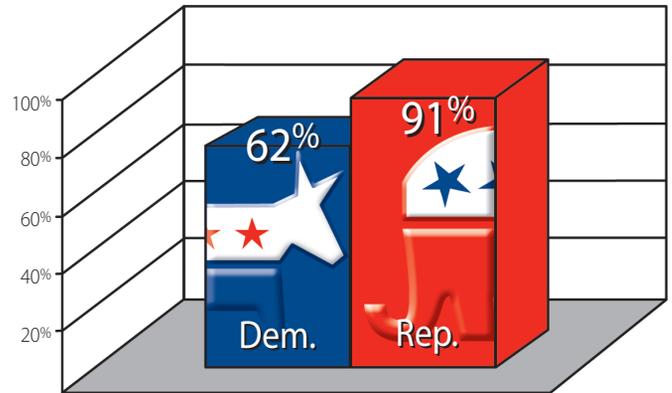
Republicans by Chamber



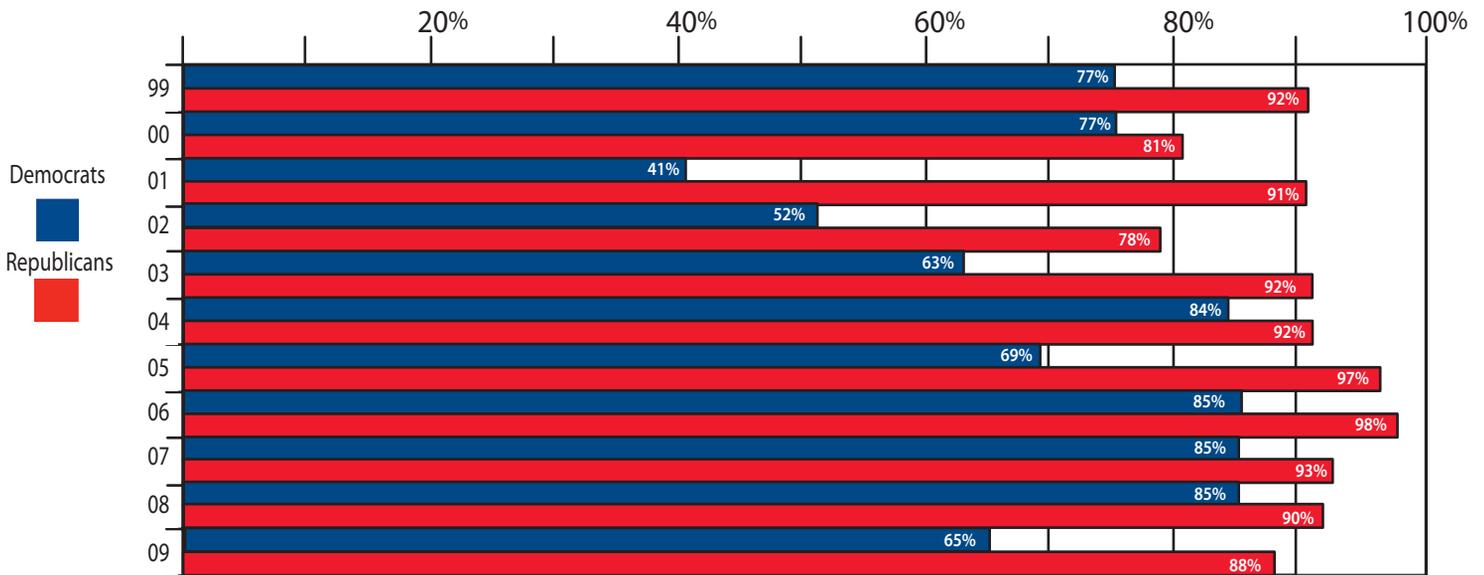
Senate by Party



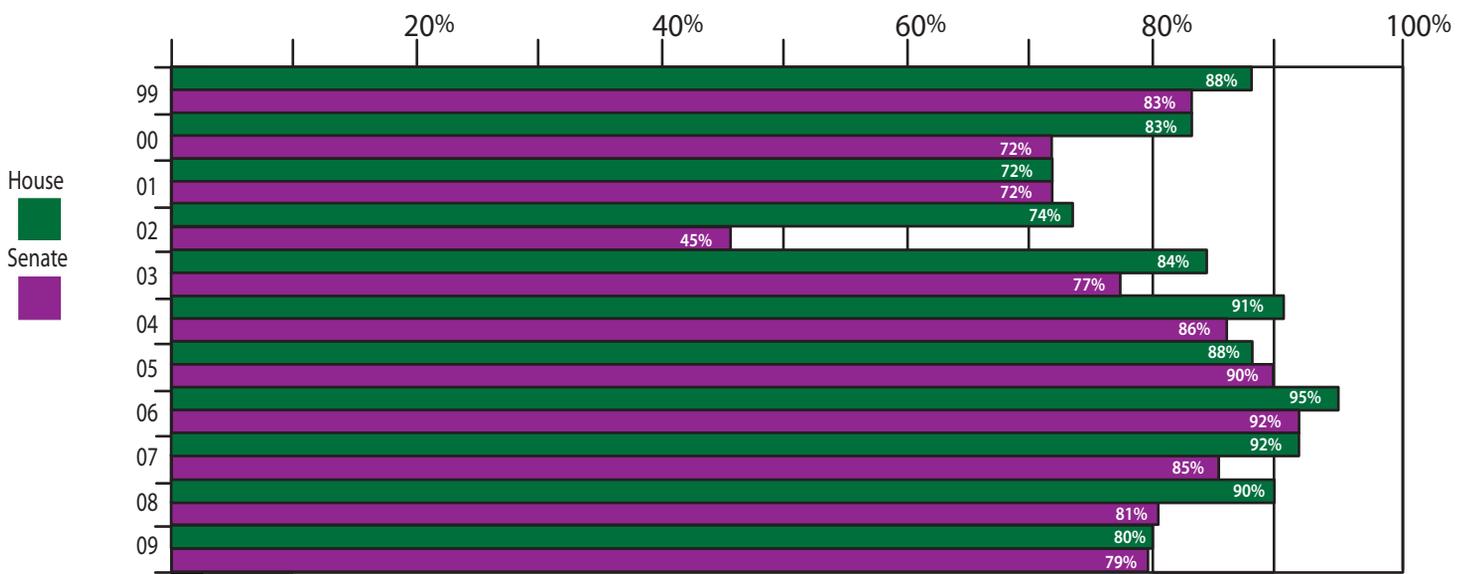
House by Party



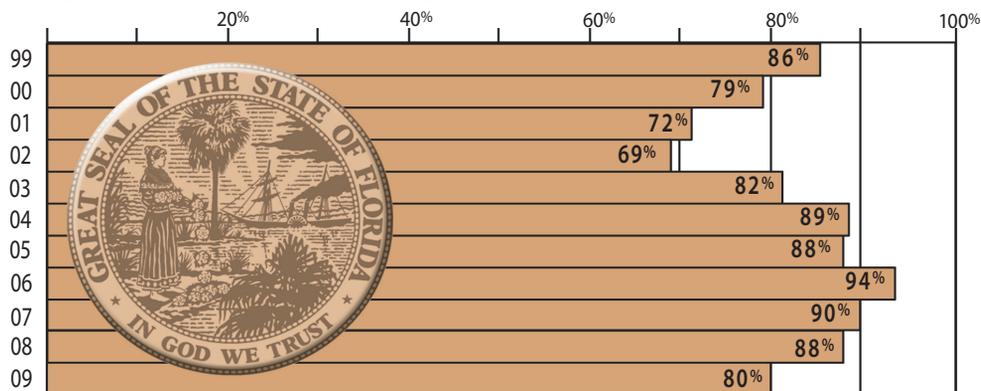
Party — Historical Voting Records



Chamber — Historical Voting Records



Legislature — Historical Voting Records



2009 Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

Percentage with AIF

Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

F L O R I D A S E N A T E								
% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	
89%	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	50	6	80%	Gaetz (R)	56	14	
87%	Altman (R)	100	15	80%	Hill (D)	60	15	
87%	Bullard (D)	48	7	80%	Smith (D)	53	13	
87%	King (R)	47	7	79%	Fasano (R)	73	19	
86%	Baker (R)	85	14	78%	Rich (D)	62	18	
86%	Bennett (R)	82	13	78%	Ring (D)	85	24	
86%	Gardiner (R)	72	12	77%	Siplin (D)	76	23	
86%	Haridopolos (R)	80	13	76%	Lawson (D)	64	20	
86%	Pruitt (R)	63	10	75%	Jones (R)	49	16	
86%	Richter (R)	62	10	74%	Aronberg (D)	45	16	
85%	Atwater (R)	33	6	74%	Wilson (D)	42	15	
85%	Deutch (D)	67	12	73%	Peaden (R)	67	25	
82%	Alexander (R)	55	12	71%	Crist (R)	52	21	
82%	Dean (R)	51	11	70%	Justice (D)	59	25	
82%	Detert (R)	62	14	70%	Villalobos (R)	38	16	
82%	Garcia (R)	79	17	67%	Sobel (D)	50	25	
82%	Lynn (R)	65	14	66%	Storms (R)	57	29	
82%	Oelrich (R)	58	13	63%	Dockery (R)	45	27	
82%	Wise (R)	75	16	61%	Gelber (D)	54	35	
81%	Constantine (R)	69	16	58%	Joyner (D)	44	32	

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 79%

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
97%	Carroll (R)	69	2	91%	Mayfield (R)	63	6	70%	Scionti (D)	53	23
96%	Culp (R)	71	3	91%	McKeel (R)	59	6	69%	Bembry (D)	50	22
96%	Weinstein (R)	64	3	91%	Murzin (R)	77	8	69%	Rader (D)	48	22
95%	Bogdanoff (R)	73	4	91%	Planas (R)	68	7	68%	Garcia (D)	46	22
95%	Glorioso (R)	77	4	91%	Poppell (R)	81	8	67%	Taylor, P. (D)	60	30
95%	Gonzalez (R)	72	4	91%	Precourt (R)	62	6	66%	Waldman (D)	63	32
95%	Schenck (R)	74	4	91%	Van Zant (R)	59	6	65%	Soto (D)	41	22
95%	Thompson, N. (R)	70	4	91%	Weatherford (R)	64	6	64%	Fitzgerald (D)	54	30
94%	Cannon (R)	62	4	91%	Williams, T. (R)	75	7	64%	Heller (D)	42	24
94%	Cretul (R)	46	3	91%	Zapata (R)	79	8	63%	Brandenburg (D)	56	33
94%	Fresen (R)	74	5	90%	Bovo (R)	56	6	63%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	41	24
94%	Grady (R)	68	4	90%	Coley (R)	66	7	63%	Thompson, G. (D)	47	28
94%	Hasner (R)	59	4	90%	Flores (R)	60	7	62%	Fetterman (D)	49	30
94%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	62	4	90%	Ford (R)	76	8	62%	Sachs (D)	44	27
94%	Reagan (R)	59	4	90%	Frishe (R)	57	6	62%	Saunders (D)	41	25
94%	Rivera (R)	63	4	90%	Holder (R)	64	7	62%	Skidmore (D)	47	29
94%	Sansom (R)	46	3	90%	Horner (R)	57	6	61%	Braynon (D)	51	32
94%	Tobia (R)	66	4	90%	Kelly (R)	61	7	61%	Jones (D)	43	28
93%	Adams (R)	67	5	90%	Patronis (R)	64	7	61%	Randolph (D)	43	27
93%	Dorworth (R)	80	6	89%	Adkins (R)	56	7	61%	Roberson, Y. (D)	46	29
93%	Evers (R)	80	6	89%	Llorente (R)	68	8	61%	Steinberg (D)	40	26
93%	McBurney (R)	79	6	88%	Drake (R)	57	8	60%	Reed (D)	37	25
93%	Wood (R)	76	6	88%	Homan (R)	65	9	60%	Thurston (D)	47	31
93%	Workman (R)	75	6	88%	Patterson (R)	72	10	59%	Gibbons (D)	38	26
92%	Aubuchon (R)	66	6	88%	Roberson, K. (R)	61	8	59%	Rogers (D)	37	26
92%	Domino (R)	70	6	88%	Troutman (R)	74	10	59%	Rouson (D)	40	28
92%	Eisnagle (R)	67	6	87%	Hooper (R)	67	10	58%	Porth (D)	36	26
92%	Galvano (R)	69	6	87%	Plakon (R)	61	9	58%	Sands (D)	36	26
92%	Grimsley (R)	78	7	87%	Renuart (R)	65	10	58%	Taylor, D. (D)	39	28
92%	Hudson (R)	56	5	87%	Schultz (R)	71	11	57%	Brise (D)	36	27
92%	Nelson (R)	76	7	86%	Ambler (R)	64	10	57%	Chestnut (D)	20	15
92%	O'Toole (R)	56	5	85%	Kreegel (R)	46	8	57%	Williams, A. (D)	39	30
92%	Proctor (R)	66	6	84%	Hays (R)	72	14	56%	Bush (D)	35	28
92%	Ray (R)	56	5	83%	Robaina (R)	52	11	56%	Clarke-Reed (D)	33	26
92%	Snyder (R)	67	6	82%	Legg (R)	53	12	56%	Pafford (D)	45	36
92%	Stargel (R)	65	6	80%	Nehr (R)	48	12	55%	Kiar (D)	36	30
91%	Anderson (R)	70	7	78%	Abruzzo (D)	52	15	52%	Bullard (D)	36	33
91%	Burgin (R)	60	6	73%	Boyd (D)	58	21	52%	Kriseman (D)	39	36
91%	Crisafulli (R)	64	6	70%	Gibson (D)	58	25	52%	Schwartz (D)	33	30
91%	Hukill (R)	84	8	70%	Long (D)	71	30	51%	Jenne (D)	39	38

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 80%

2009 Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

Alphabetically

Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

F L O R I D A S E N A T E							
Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Alexander (R)	55	12	82%	Hill (D)	60	15	80%
Altman (R)	100	15	87%	Jones (R)	49	16	75%
Aronberg (D)	45	16	74%	Joyner (D)	44	32	58%
Atwater (R)	33	6	85%	Justice (D)	59	25	70%
Baker (R)	85	14	86%	King (R)	47	7	87%
Bennett (R)	82	13	86%	Lawson (D)	64	20	76%
Bullard (D)	48	7	87%	Lynn (R)	65	14	82%
Constantine (R)	69	16	81%	Oelrich (R)	58	13	82%
Crist (R)	52	21	71%	Peaden (R)	67	25	73%
Dean (R)	51	11	82%	Pruitt (R)	63	10	86%
Detert (R)	62	14	82%	Rich (D)	62	18	78%
Deutch (D)	67	12	85%	Richter (R)	62	10	86%
Díaz de la Portilla (R)	50	6	89%	Ring (D)	85	24	78%
Dockery (R)	45	27	63%	Siplin (D)	76	23	77%
Fasano (R)	73	19	79%	Smith (D)	53	13	80%
Gaetz (R)	56	14	80%	Sobel (D)	50	25	67%
Garcia (R)	79	17	82%	Storms (R)	57	29	66%
Gardiner (R)	72	12	86%	Villalobos (R)	38	16	70%
Gelber (D)	54	35	61%	Wilson (D)	42	15	74%
Haridopolos (R)	80	13	86%	Wise (R)	75	16	82%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 79%

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Abruzzo (D)	52	15	78%	Gonzalez (R)	72	4	95%	Ray (R)	56	5	92%
Adams (R)	67	5	93%	Grady (R)	68	4	94%	Reagan (R)	59	4	94%
Adkins (R)	56	7	89%	Grimmsley (R)	78	7	92%	Reed (D)	37	25	60%
Ambler (R)	64	10	86%	Hasner (R)	59	4	94%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	41	24	63%
Anderson (R)	70	7	91%	Hays (R)	72	14	84%	Renuart (R)	65	10	87%
Aubuchon (R)	66	6	92%	Heller (D)	42	24	64%	Rivera (R)	63	4	94%
Bembry (D)	50	22	69%	Holder (R)	64	7	90%	Robaina (R)	52	11	83%
Bogdanoff (R)	73	4	95%	Homan (R)	65	9	88%	Roberson, K. (R)	61	8	88%
Bovo (R)	56	6	90%	Hooper (R)	67	10	87%	Roberson, Y. (D)	46	29	61%
Boyd (D)	58	21	73%	Horner (R)	57	6	90%	Rogers (D)	37	26	59%
Brandenburg (D)	56	33	63%	Hudson (R)	56	5	92%	Rouson (D)	40	28	59%
Braynon (D)	51	32	61%	Hukill (R)	84	8	91%	Sachs (D)	44	27	62%
Brise (D)	36	27	57%	Jenne (D)	39	38	51%	Sands (D)	36	26	58%
Bullard (D)	36	33	52%	Jones (D)	43	28	61%	Sansom (R)	46	3	94%
Burgin (R)	60	6	91%	Kelly (R)	61	7	90%	Saunders (D)	41	25	62%
Bush (D)	35	28	56%	Kiar (D)	36	30	55%	Schenck (R)	74	4	95%
Cannon (R)	62	4	94%	Kreegel (R)	46	8	85%	Schultz (R)	71	11	87%
Carroll (R)	69	2	97%	Kriseman (D)	39	36	52%	Schwartz (D)	33	30	52%
Chestnut (D)	20	15	57%	Legg (R)	53	12	82%	Scionti (D)	53	23	70%
Clarke-Reed (D)	33	26	56%	Llorente (R)	68	8	89%	Skidmore (D)	47	29	62%
Coley (R)	66	7	90%	Long (D)	71	30	70%	Snyder (R)	67	6	92%
Cretul (R)	46	3	94%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	62	4	94%	Soto (D)	41	22	65%
Crisafulli (R)	64	6	91%	Mayfield (R)	63	6	91%	Stargel (R)	65	6	92%
Culp (R)	71	3	96%	McBurney (R)	79	6	93%	Steinberg (D)	40	26	61%
Domino (R)	70	6	92%	McKeel (R)	59	6	91%	Taylor, D. (D)	39	28	58%
Dorworth (R)	80	6	93%	Murzin (R)	77	8	91%	Taylor, P. (D)	60	30	67%
Drake (R)	57	8	88%	Nehr (R)	48	12	80%	Thompson, G. (D)	47	28	63%
Eisnaugle (R)	67	6	92%	Nelson (R)	76	7	92%	Thompson, N. (R)	70	4	95%
Evers (R)	80	6	93%	O'Toole (R)	56	5	92%	Thurston (D)	47	31	60%
Fetterman (D)	49	30	62%	Pafford (D)	45	36	56%	Tobia (R)	66	4	94%
Fitzgerald (D)	54	30	64%	Patronis (R)	64	7	90%	Troutman (R)	74	10	88%
Flores (R)	60	7	90%	Patterson (R)	72	10	88%	Van Zant (R)	59	6	91%
Ford (R)	76	8	90%	Plakon (R)	61	9	87%	Waldman (D)	63	32	66%
Fresen (R)	74	5	94%	Planas (R)	68	7	91%	Weatherford (R)	64	6	91%
Frishe (R)	57	6	90%	Poppell (R)	81	8	91%	Weinstein (R)	64	3	96%
Galvano (R)	69	6	92%	Porth (D)	36	26	58%	Williams, A. (D)	39	30	57%
Garcia (D)	46	22	68%	Precourt (R)	62	6	91%	Williams, T. (R)	75	7	91%
Gibbons (D)	38	26	59%	Proctor (R)	66	6	92%	Wood (R)	76	6	93%
Gibson (D)	58	25	70%	Rader (D)	48	22	69%	Workman (R)	75	6	93%
Glorioso (R)	77	4	95%	Randolph (D)	43	27	61%	Zapata (R)	79	8	91%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 80%

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

Historical Alphabetically

The AIF Historical Voting Records provides a cumulative tally of all the votes cast by legislators on AIF issues over their careers in the Florida Legislature.

F L O R I D A S E N A T E					
Name/Party	'09	History	Name/Party	'09	History
Alexander (R)	82%	88%	Hill (D)	80%	80%
Altman (R)	87%	94%	Jones (R)	75%	83%
Aronberg (D)	74%	80%	Joyner (D)	58%	64%
Atwater (R)	85%	87%	Justice (D)	70%	70%
Baker (R)	86%	89%	King (R)	87%	84%
Bennett (R)	86%	88%	Lawson (D)	76%	75%
Bullard (D)	87%	85%	Lynn (R)	82%	88%
Constantine (R)	81%	88%	Oelrich (R)	82%	88%
Crist (R)	71%	85%	Peaden (R)	73%	81%
Dean (R)	82%	92%	Pruitt (R)	86%	87%
Detert (R)	82%	91%	Rich (D)	78%	74%
Deutch (D)	85%	82%	Richter (R)	86%	91%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	89%	87%	Ring (D)	78%	82%
Dockery (R)	63%	85%	Siplin (D)	77%	79%
Fasano (R)	79%	86%	Smith (D)	80%	68%
Gaetz (R)	80%	80%	Sobel (D)	67%	67%
Garcia (R)	82%	83%	Storms (R)	66%	75%
Gardiner (R)	86%	93%	Villalobos (R)	70%	82%
Gelber (D)	61%	65%	Wilson (D)	74%	72%
Haridopolos (R)	86%	91%	Wise (R)	82%	87%

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	'09	History	Name/Party	'09	History	Name/Party	'09	History
Abruzzo (D)	78%	78%	Gonzalez (R)	95%	93%	Ray (R)	92%	92%
Adams (R)	93%	96%	Grady (R)	94%	94%	Reagan (R)	94%	96%
Adkins (R)	89%	89%	Grimmsley (R)	92%	95%	Reed (D)	60%	76%
Ambler (R)	86%	91%	Hasner (R)	94%	96%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	63%	63%
Anderson (R)	91%	93%	Hays (R)	84%	93%	Renuart (R)	87%	87%
Aubuchon (R)	92%	94%	Heller (D)	64%	80%	Rivera (R)	94%	96%
Bembry (D)	69%	69%	Holder (R)	90%	94%	Robaina (R)	83%	93%
Bogdanoff (R)	95%	97%	Homan (R)	88%	92%	Roberson, K. (R)	88%	88%
Bovo (R)	90%	90%	Hooper (R)	87%	91%	Roberson, Y. (D)	61%	76%
Boyd (D)	73%	82%	Horner (R)	90%	90%	Rogers (D)	59%	59%
Brandenburg (D)	63%	80%	Hudson (R)	92%	92%	Rouson (D)	59%	70%
Braynon (D)	61%	71%	Hukill (R)	91%	96%	Sachs (D)	62%	76%
Brise (D)	57%	75%	Jenne (D)	51%	70%	Sands (D)	58%	78%
Bullard (D)	52%	52%	Jones (D)	61%	61%	Sansom (R)	94%	97%
Burgin (R)	91%	91%	Kelly (R)	90%	91%	Saunders (D)	62%	78%
Bush (D)	56%	74%	Kiar (D)	55%	77%	Schenck (R)	95%	95%
Cannon (R)	94%	97%	Kreegel (R)	85%	94%	Schultz (R)	87%	88%
Carroll (R)	97%	97%	Kriseman (D)	52%	70%	Schwartz (D)	52%	70%
Chestnut (D)	57%	79%	Legg (R)	82%	93%	Scionti (D)	70%	82%
Clarke-Reed (D)	56%	56%	Llorente (R)	89%	95%	Skidmore (D)	62%	76%
Coley (R)	90%	95%	Long (D)	70%	80%	Snyder (R)	92%	93%
Cretul (R)	94%	97%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	94%	96%	Soto (D)	65%	80%
Crisafulli (R)	91%	91%	Mayfield (R)	91%	91%	Stargel (R)	92%	92%
Culp (R)	96%	94%	McBurney (R)	93%	93%	Steinberg (D)	61%	61%
Domino (R)	92%	96%	McKeel (R)	91%	94%	Taylor, D. (D)	58%	58%
Dorworth (R)	93%	93%	Murzin (R)	91%	96%	Taylor, P. (D)	67%	78%
Drake (R)	88%	88%	Nehr (R)	80%	90%	Thompson, G. (D)	63%	77%
Eisnaugle (R)	92%	92%	Nelson (R)	92%	92%	Thompson, N. (R)	95%	95%
Evers (R)	93%	95%	O'Toole (R)	92%	92%	Thurston (D)	60%	75%
Fetterman (D)	62%	62%	Pafford (D)	56%	56%	Tobia (R)	94%	94%
Fitzgerald (D)	64%	78%	Patronis (R)	90%	90%	Troutman (R)	88%	94%
Flores (R)	90%	96%	Patterson (R)	88%	95%	Van Zant (R)	91%	91%
Ford (R)	90%	93%	Plakon (R)	87%	87%	Waldman (D)	66%	78%
Fresen (R)	94%	94%	Planas (R)	91%	93%	Weatherford (R)	91%	92%
Frishe (R)	90%	91%	Poppell (R)	91%	95%	Weinstein (R)	96%	96%
Galvano (R)	92%	94%	Porth (D)	58%	77%	Williams, A. (D)	57%	57%
Garcia (D)	68%	77%	Precourt (R)	91%	92%	Williams, T. (R)	91%	95%
Gibbons (D)	59%	77%	Proctor (R)	92%	96%	Wood (R)	93%	93%
Gibson (D)	70%	76%	Rader (D)	69%	69%	Workman (R)	93%	93%
Glorioso (R)	95%	96%	Randolph (D)	61%	78%	Zapata (R)	91%	95%

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Unless otherwise noted, AIF took the same position on the bills listed at the end of each write-up as it did on the bill in the write-up.

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2009 Sessions Priorities.

BUSINESS REGULATION

HB 73 – Relating to Expedited Permitting by Rep. Rob Schenck (R-Spring Hill) **PRIORITY**

The bill encourages business growth and expansion by mandating that state required permits for storm water and environmental resource permits be approved or denied within 45 days rather than the current policy of 90 days upon submission. It will require a pre-application review to afford both the applicant and the agency the ability to discuss and address all requirements of the permit application as well as preserve local control by stipulating that local governments must also approve, by resolution, that the business is a targeted business for the local community and should be afforded the right to expedited permitting.

AIF supports legislation aimed at improving the permitting process for existing businesses in Florida and for those companies looking to invest in our state. AIF has been out in front on this issue and included it in our Economic Stimulus Package 2.0 (ESP 2.0) as a top priority in finding ways that the state can help stimulate the economy through reduced regulation.

HB 73 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

SB 494 – Relating to Water Conservation by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

This measure aims to place in statute the process and standards for persons who provide the service of applying fertilizer. This bill strikes a balance between protecting our state's natural resources from excessive nutrients and allowing properly trained, licensed and certified persons to provide an important service to consumers. The bill is the product of many discussions between industry stakeholders, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs).

AIF supports legislation that develops an overarching model for fertilizer regulation that applies statewide.

CS/CS/CS/SB 494 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; House companion CS/CS/CS/HB 1515 was laid on the table.

SB 788 – Relating to Gaming Compact/State of Florida & Seminole Tribe by Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole)

Under these new terms, the Tribe will have exclusivity for the operation of Class III slots outside of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties; will have the exclusive right to conduct banked card games (Black Jack, Chemin de fer and Baccarat) in the State, but limited to Broward and Hillsborough Counties only; and will be able to offer No-limit Poker at all seven Tribal facilities. These changes will allow for revenue sharing but modify the terms of sharing by providing for a \$150 million guaranteed minimum annual payment instead of the variable guaranteed minimum annual payments in the voided Compact. The Tribe will be required to remove banked card games at all facilities outside of Broward and Hillsborough Counties within 90 days of the Compact's execution, and the State will keep all payments made by the Tribe under the voided Compact. Card games will be removed from the Brighton and Immokalee facilities and, additionally, will no longer be eligible to be expanded to the Big Cypress facility. The bill also reduces some of the impact that the new Compact will have on the pari-mutuel industry while limiting the expansion of gaming. Among other things, the bill revises the definition of "full schedule of live racing or games" to allow for a gradual increase in racing performances for quarter horse permitholders while closing the quarter horse loophole. Quarter horse permitholders are limited to a 35-mile lease restriction and can run thoroughbred races up to 50% of the time. Furthermore, the bill authorizes quarter horse permitholders to convert to a limited thoroughbred permit, and jai alai permitholders to convert



Barney T. Bishop III

President & CEO of Associated Industries of Florida ... former aide to state Treasurer Bill Gunter ... former Executive Director of the Florida Democratic Party ... more than 30 years experience in legislative and political affairs ... areas of expertise include appropriations, criminal justice, and behavioral health care issues ... B.S. in Political & Judicial Communication from Emerson College in Boston.

Issues: General Business, Appropriations, Criminal Justice

to a greyhound permit if certain requirements are satisfied.

AIF supports passage of the Seminole Indian Gaming Compact as long as Florida's long-standing pari-mutuel industry is allowed to provide additional gaming options for its customers. The revenues derived from gaming are an important source of funds for the state given the current budget deficits.

SB 788 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

👍 HB 1123 – Relating to Environmental Permitting by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers) PRIORITY

This session the Legislature looked at ways to streamline the permitting process, and HB 1123 would help the process when it comes to wetland permitting. Under this proposed legislation the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would be able to perform certain permitting duties instead of the Army Corp of Engineers, which should eliminate certain duplicative steps without harming the environment.

AIF supports efforts to streamline the permitting process whenever possible and applauds Representative Williams for sponsoring this legislation. As the saying goes, time is money; and the longer it takes to go through the permitting process, the more money you are going to spend. Duplication of the regulatory system, at any level, is not a good use of taxpayers' time or money.

CS/CS/HB 1123 died in Senate messages; Senate companion CS/SB 2016 died in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

👍 SB 2630 – Relating to Motor Vehicle Dealerships by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)

The bill enacts a number of changes to the section of law dealing with auto franchise agreements. One of the more problematic sections of the bill adjusts the geographic distances between dealerships for the purposes of challenging the establishment of a new dealership or relocating an existing one. This language would make it nearly impossible for a dealer to relocate or expand in a market where an existing dealership was located. Fortunately, the bill was amended during the final days of session to remove some of the more onerous provisions.

AIF originally opposed the bill because of its many anti-free market provisions. The section of the bill dealing with

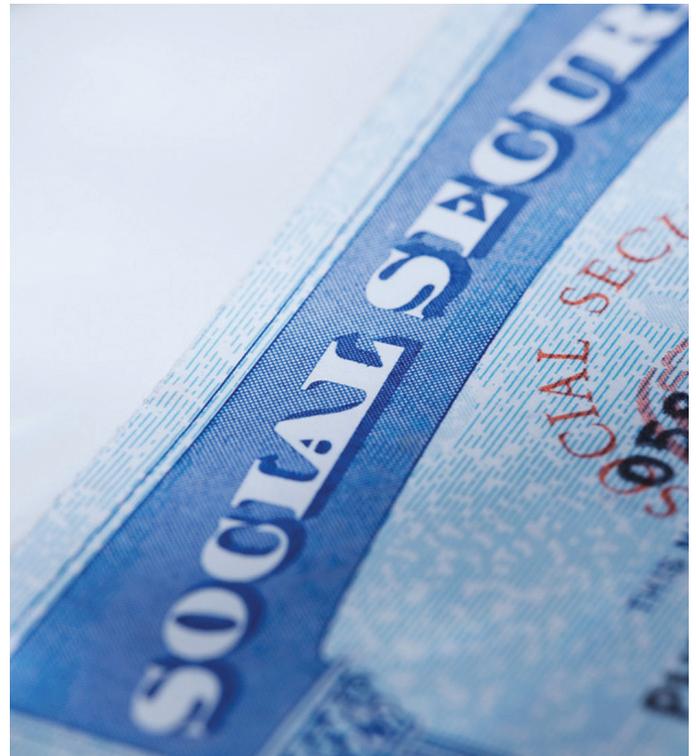
how a dealership could locate to a new market included a number of onerous provisions and over regulation that were anti-competitive.

SB 2630 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-93.

👍 HB 7051 – Relating to OGSR/Social Security Numbers by Rep. Clay Ford (R-Pensacola)

The bill provides for access to social security numbers contained in public records for commercial activity. As originally drafted, the bill severely restricted commercial access to social security numbers and would have made credit checks, background checks, UCC filings, insurance reports, etc. more difficult to track for commercial purposes. In committee, AIF was able to work with the committee chairs and their staff to develop a compromise that would still allow access for legitimate commercial purposes and federal law.

AIF supports efforts to ensure that businesses have access to important personal information for commercial purposes. Social security numbers are an individual's only unique identifier and are vital to matching public records documents to the correct person when making commercial decisions. Restricting access to such information could increase



Jose L. Gonzalez

Vice President – Governmental Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida ... coordinates AIF's lobbying team and all research and advocacy efforts for the association ... six years legislative experience ... Master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Public Policy and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Florida.

Issues: Ethics & Elections, Government Accountability, Taxation, Workforce Housing

“For the second year in a row, AIF brought Florida’s business community together in an effort to put forth recommendations that would jump-start Florida’s economy. The proposals included in the *Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) 2.0*, especially the passage of the New Markets Development Program, represent concrete ideas for putting Floridians back to work.”

– **W. Anthony Toups III**, Senior Vice President,
Advantage Capital Partners

the cost of doing business and require costly changes in commercial operation.

CS/HB 7051 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; Senate companion CS/SB 1838 was laid on the table.

 **HB 7143 – Relating to Regulatory Reform by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers)** **PRIORITY**

The bill contains legislation to extend permits for certain projects. Permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or a water management district with an expiration date between September 1, 2008 and January 1, 2012 will be extended or renewed for a period of two years following the date of expiration. This extension includes any local government-issued development order or building permit. The bill also prohibits local governments from requiring, as a condition of approval for a development permit, that an applicant obtain a permit or approval from any other state or federal agency.

AIF has been working with the Streamlining Task Force this year and supports permit extensions and streamlining the process for regulation. These are desperately needed by businesses that have projects ready to go but may not have funding available to them; so the permits they have in place

will be protected, saving time and money.

CS/HB 7143 died in Senate messages; Senate companion CS/CS/SB 2026 died in the Senate Commerce Committee.

 **HB 7145 – Relating to Pari-Mutuel Permitholders by Rep. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton)**

The bill includes provisions to close the quarter horse loophole and subject quarter horse permitholders to the same permit and licensure requirements as other horse racing permitholders; reduce the annual slot machine license fee from \$3 million to \$2 million; replace the current tax rate on slot machines (18%) to twice (36%) the revenue sharing rate applicable to the Tribe set forth in the original Compact, or a minimum of \$140 million for slot machine tax collections; extend the hours of operations for card rooms from 12 hours to 24 hours; and increase wager limits for various card games.

AIF supports gambling proposals which allow our state’s pari-mutuel industry to remain competitive. During these difficult times, the state needs all the revenue it can get. These bills will have a dramatic effect on the business model of individual businesses and industries as well as the regulatory framework of gambling in Florida.

HB 7145 died in the Senate Conference Committee; Senate companion CS/CS/SB 836 was laid on the table.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

 **SB 350 – Relating to Entertainment Industry Economic Development by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)**

This bill converts Florida’s existing film and entertainment incentive from a cash reimbursement of qualified expenditures to an uncapped, transferable credit against sales and corporate income taxes. For the last few years, Florida has had a film industry incentive program in place to try to lure production companies to film in Florida, thus driving economic activity in our state.

AIF supports this economic development bill because the incentives included would allow Florida to compete with its sister states in the region and provide the right kind of encouragement for companies to invest in Florida.

SB 350 died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee; House companion HB 47 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.



Tamela Ivey Perdue, Esq.

General Counsel for Associated Industries of Florida... more than 17 years legislative and legal experience, representing insurers and the business community on tort, workers’ compensation, insurance and other legal issues before the legislative and executive branches of government ... established legal practice specializing in insurance defense and administrative law ... formerly worked in The Florida Senate ... B.S. from Lee University and J.D. from Stetson University.

Issues: Legal & Judicial, Unemployment Compensation, Workers’ Compensation

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF



Rep. Dave Murzin, Chair of House Economic Development Council, outlines some of the challenges facing Florida's business community to AIF members.

👍 SB 634 – Relating to Commercialization Matching Grants by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Niceville)

The bill creates the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program (program) to assist small or startup companies that take advantage of federal and state partnerships to accelerate their growth and market penetration. Program applicants must meet several criteria, such as having attracted funding from non-government sources. The bill also directs Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Capital Committee, or a subcommittee, to develop program policy, establish criteria for the grant awards, approve the awards, and review the program's progress and results.

AIF supports this economic development bill because the incentives included would allow Florida to compete with its sister states in the region and provide the right kind of encouragement for companies to invest in Florida.

SB 634 died in the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee; House companion HB 881 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.

👍 HM 1483 – Relating to United States-Colombia Free Trade Agreement by Rep. Juan Zapata (R-Miami)

The House Memorial urges the US Congress to support the establishment of a free-trade agreement between the US and Colombia. The pending approval of this free-trade

agreement is dependent upon prompt action by members of Congress. In addition to helping our friends abroad, this agreement will significantly aid both national and Florida economies at a time an economic boost is greatly needed. Florida's 14 deep water ports would see an influx of commerce with our proximity to Colombia, and this opportunity cannot be overlooked. Colombia is one of Florida's top trade partners, and thus legislators should do everything in their power to advocate for the approval of this agreement.

AIF strongly supports this measure and applauds Representative Zapata for his commitment to this issue. Exports out of Florida are one of the few bright spots in our state's economy, and approval by the US Congress of this free-trade agreement would be an instant boost for business in Florida.

CS/HM 1483 died in Senate messages.

👍 HB 485 – Relating to Fast Track Economic Stimulus for Small Businesses by Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) PRIORITY

This economic development tool relies on a market-based approach to expand credit, capital and financial services to the state's low income communities across the state. By leveraging a \$26 billion federal program, the New Markets Tax Credit will provide a modest state-level tax credit to encourage capital investments to be made in Florida's low income communities by utilizing federal oversight and allowing Florida to implement the program with minimal state resources. The program could have a total economic impact of \$6.3 billion over the next ten years and is expected to incite some \$250 million in private sector investment immediately. It is also expected to create almost 4,000 jobs in its first year.

AIF is an ardent supporter of this legislation as evidenced by its inclusion in our Economic Stimulus Package 2.0. Not only will this create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the state, but it will also foster growth in some of the most depressed areas of Florida. Growth and economic activity are job drivers for the state's economy, and programs like the New Markets Development Program are just one way that Florida's economy can get back on track.

HB 485 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-50.



Chris Verlander

Senior Vice President – Corporate Development of Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 29 years expertise in insurance lobbying activities ... former president (1994-1997) and Vice Chairman (1997-1999) of American Heritage Life Insurance Company ... B.S. from Georgia Tech and M.B.A. from the University of Florida.

Issues: Insurance, General Business

👍 HB 1291 – Relating to Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Projects by Rep. Charles Van Zant (R-Palatka)

The bill would authorize the Department of Management Services (DMS), other state agencies, and local governments to enter into public works infrastructure projects with a private entity or a consortium of private entities in an effort to address a public need for improving the economy, environment, and social infrastructure of the state through the construction or expansion of public works projects.

AIF supports this legislation and believes it will help create jobs, which are desperately needed, while providing valuable infrastructure projects for the betterment of citizens in Florida.

CS/HB 1291 died in the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Senate companion SB 2060 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

👍 HJR 919 – Relating to Revision of the Class Size Requirements for Public Schools by Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel)

This Joint Resolution preserves the constitutional integrity of the Class Size Amendment approved by Florida voters in 2002 by holding class size measurement at the school average level with limits on individual classroom sizes. The measure would also allow for flexibility, giving principals and teachers the ability to manage small differences in class sizes within a school, which could for example put students that need a little extra attention in a slightly smaller class, while compensating with a slightly larger class.

AIF supports increased flexibility in the implementation of the class size reduction requirement due to the positive fiscal impact that would be created as a result of changing the compliance requirements. This proposal was part of AIF's Economic Stimulus Package 2.0 since greater flexibility will ensure money is spent where it is most needed at a time when school funding is facing drastic reductions as a result of the downturn in the economy.

CS/CS/HJR 919 died in the Senate Education PreK-12 Committee; Senate companion SJR 1828 died on the Senate calendar.

👍 HB 991 – Relating to School Improvement and Accountability by Rep. Tom Grady (R-Naples)

The bill aims to better integrate Florida's proven school grading system with No Child Left Behind's command-focus on providing intensive intervention for struggling schools. The bill provides that a school must make significant progress by improving its school grade and by increasing student performance in mathematics and reading in order to advance to a higher category. School districts may not assign a higher percentage than the school district average of temporarily certified teachers, teachers in need of improvement, or out-of-field teachers to schools designated as one of the three lowest performing categories. Finally, the bill requires district school boards to annually approve and require implementation of new, amended, or continuation school improvement plans for each school in the district.

AIF supports legislation that will lead towards better prepared students through greater school accountability for educational outcomes.

HB 991 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.



Keyna Cory (Chief Lobbyist)

President, Public Affairs Consultants, a public affairs and governmental relations consulting firm ... more than 24 years experience representing a variety of clients, from small entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 companies, before the Florida Legislature ... majored in Political Science at the University of Florida.

Issues: General Business, Environmental, Taxation

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

👍 HB 1293 – Relating to High School Graduation by Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Miami) PRIORITY

The bill raises high school graduation standards to ensure Florida's students are prepared to enter the increasingly competitive global economy. The initiative raises the bar on math and science requirements for high school graduation and requires students to achieve a grade-level score on the 10th grade FCAT.

AIF strongly supports increased standards for high school graduation so that students will graduate from high school ready for college and work. This bill increases the value of a Florida high school diploma — for businesses, for colleges, and, most importantly, for the students of Florida.

CS/CS/HB 1293 died in Senate messages; Senate companion CS/SB 2654 died in the Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee.

👍 SB 2482 – Relating to School Improvement and Accountability by Sen. Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville)

The bill provides the State Board of Education the authority to deploy a system of school improvement accountability to assess student performance by school, identify schools in which students are not making adequate progress, institute appropriate measures for enforcing improvement, and provide rewards and sanctions based on performance. In addition, the bill would provide uniform accountability for all schools, greater school-wide assistance, targeted support for schools to improve and sustain performance, a focus on the performance of student subgroups, and enhanced school performance.

AIF supports legislation that will lead towards better prepared students through greater school accountability for educational outcomes.

CS/CS/SB 2482 died on the Senate calendar.

👍 HB 7087 – Relating to Student Achievement by Rep. John Legg (R-Port Richey)

The bill changes the State Board of Education designation of academically high-performing school districts from a three-year designation to an annual designation and requires the designation to be made at the next School Board of Education meeting occurring on or after February 1 of each year. The designation is effective beginning the following school year. The bill also includes a requirement for a report that includes a description of each statute and rule that the dis-

trict did not comply with and these exemptions' effect on the district's ability to maintain or improve its high-performing status. The bill also increases the mathematic requirement for high school students from three to four credits.

AIF strongly supports increased standards for high school graduation so that students will graduate from high school ready for college and work. This bill increases the value of a Florida high school diploma — for businesses, for colleges, and most importantly, for the students of Florida.

HB 7087 died in the Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee.

ELECTION REFORM

👍 HB 497 – Relating to Paid Petition Circulators by Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow)

The bill addresses the process by which citizens may propose amendments to the state constitution, particularly the procedures involving signature-gathering by paid petition circulators. In addition, the bill specifies requirements that must be met in order to be a paid petition circulator.

AIF supports legislation that would bring about increased accountability for paid petition signature gatherers.

CS/HB 497 died in the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

👍 HJR 1013 – Relating to Guaranteeing the Right to Vote by Secret Ballot by Rep. Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach)

PRIORITY

The bill proposes the creation of Section 28 of Article I of the Florida Constitution to provide that voting by secret ballot is a fundamental right of all individuals. The proposed constitutional amendment provides that the right of individuals to vote by secret ballot is guaranteed where local, state, or federal law requires elections for public office, requires public votes on initiatives or referenda, or requires designations or authorizations of employee representation.

AIF supports this measure and the effort to protect the secret ballot process in Florida. Passage of this proposed constitutional amendment will allow voters in Florida to decide whether they want to enshrine the use of secret ballots in elections in our state's top document.

CS/HJR 1013 died in Senate messages; Senate companion SJR 1908 died in Senate Rules Committee.



Robert P. Asztalos

Partner with Buigas, Asztalos & Associates and the Director of Governmental Affairs for Delta Health Group ... directed the nursing home profession's litigation reform campaign in 2000-01 and served as the Director of the Heal Healthcare in Florida Coalition ... over 23 years legislative experience ... Master's degree in Legislative Affairs and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from George Washington University.

Issues: Health Care



House Majority Leader Adam Hasner addresses AIF members in Tallahassee on the dangers of the Employee Free Choice Act also known as "Card Check."

costs for clean energy production or credits exceeds two percent of the utility's total annual revenue. Section two would encourage utilities to pursue joint ownership of nuclear power plants and allow for utilities to purchase clean energy from out of state. Section three of the bill would create the Natural Gas Act, creating a carbon reduction fee relating to natural gas use. Section four clarifies the terms of members of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to begin on October 1 and end on September 30.

AIF supports efforts to establish a renewable portfolio standard in Florida so long as a cost-benefit analysis is performed to determine its effect on Florida's employers.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1154 died in the Senate Energy and Utilities Policy Committee.

👍 HB 1219 – Relating to Regulation of State Lands and Oil and Gas Resources by Rep. Charles Van Zant (R-Palatka) PRIORITY

The bill currently provides for an innovative process by which the state of Florida can begin the process of considering proposals for offshore drilling in Florida waters. The proposal would not immediately trigger energy exploration in state waters; instead, it would empower the Governor and Florida Cabinet to consider a process for reviewing, approving or rejecting proposals for exploration and production of oil and natural gas in Florida's waters. The bill would replace the current ban on drilling in Florida waters with a plan which would allow the governor and Florida Cabinet to charge \$1 million per application to explore state-controlled waters that stretch between 3 and 10 miles offshore. Additionally, if a bid was accepted by the Cabinet, the state would require a \$500 million bond before any drilling could begin and one-eighth of any royalties from new production of oil or natural gas.

AIF has been a long-time supporter of offshore drilling as a way to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil and provide for affordable and reliable energy for the thousands of businesses and citizens of Florida. This new proposal begins the conversation on how Florida can reap the benefits of environmentally sound exploration and production of oil and natural gas.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1219 died in Senate messages.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

👍 HM 21 – Relating to Energy Security by Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) PRIORITY

The bill urges the U.S. Congress to support the expiration and removal of the moratorium prohibiting exploration and production of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida, and to include Florida in revenue sharing resulting from the production of oil and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida.

AIF and its Florida Energy Council (FEC) support the passage of a Memorial to Congress encouraging increased exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

CS/CS/HM 21 died in the House Rules and Calendar Council; Senate companion SM 504 died in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

👍 SB 1154 – Relating to Energy by Sen. Jim King (R-Jacksonville)

This bill aims to create the Florida Clean Renewable Energy Policy. Section one establishes a Clean Portfolio Standard establishing the goal of 15 percent of power derived from clean energy by 2020. However, the bill would allow up to 25 percent of the goal to be nuclear. The bill further allows for exemptions from the requirements if there is insufficient supply of clean energy or clean energy credits or the total



Al Cardenas, Esq.

Partner with the law firm of Tew Cardenas LLP, chairs the Advocacy and Governmental Affairs group in Miami, Tallahassee and Washington, DC ... over 30 years legislative experience ... served two terms as Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida ... twice-named one of Washington, DC's top lobbyists ... currently represents some of Florida's largest corporate and governmental entities before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida Atlantic University and the Seton Hall University School of Law.

Issues: Federal Legislation

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF



AIF's Chief Lobbyist Keyna Cory welcomes Senate President Atwater to the AIF Pre-legislative Briefing in Tallahassee.

👍 SB 1740 – Relating to Water Protection & Sustainability Program TF/DEP by Sen. Carey Baker (R-Eustis)

This measure aims to re-create the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund (WPSTF). If not re-enacted, the trust fund would terminate on July 1, 2009. This trust fund receives its money from a portion of doc stamp revenues and was created to fund an alternative water supply program, the total maximum daily load program, and the Disadvantaged Small Community Wastewater Grant Program.

AIF supports efforts to reinstate the annual state funding for alternative water supply development and water quality improvements funding. The re-creation of the WPSTF is the first step, and now we need to find the funding for it.

CS/SB 1740 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-23; House companion HB 7059 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

👎 SB 1994 – Relating to Motor Vehicle Emission Standards by Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)

As part of Governor Crist's Executive Orders on Climate Change, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was tasked with developing an administrative rule adopting California Low Emission Vehicle (CA-LEV) Standards in Florida. As part of last year's omnibus energy bill (HB 7135) legislators included a requirement that this rule be ratified by members of the Florida Legislature. SB 1994 is the legislation which would enact the adoption of these emission standards.

AIF opposes any attempt to adopt California's lower emission vehicle standards. Not only would CA-LEV increase the cost and reduce the availability of vehicles, it would mark an unprecedented and historical move by elected officials in Florida to allow an un-elected board from another state to set policy in Florida.

CS/SB 1994 died in the Senate Commerce Committee; House companion HB 1309 died in the House Governmental Affairs Policy Committee.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

👍 HB 161 – Relating to Affordable Housing by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral) PRIORITY

This bill was proclaimed the affordable housing package for the 2009 session. Most notable, the bill proposes to repeal the cap on the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Sadowski Fund represents the State's Affordable Housing Trust Fund which receives revenue generated through documentary sales taxes. The cap limits the amount of funds withdrawn from the Fund directed towards state-wide affordable housing programs, primarily through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The repeal of the cap has been enthusiastically promoted for years by housing advocates.

AIF supports this legislation because it creates sustainable affordable housing for Florida's workforce, while correctly addressing the issue created in assessing property taxes.

CS/CS/HB 161 died in Senate messages; Senate companion CS/CS/SB 1042 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

👍 HB 227 – Relating to Impact Fees by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral) PRIORITY

The bill changes the burden of proof for a business which challenges a local government's enactment of an impact fee to merely a preponderance of the evidence, thus alleviating a local government's presumption of correctness that currently attaches to impact fee ordinances. In addition, the bill includes legislation to implement a two-year freeze on impact fees.

AIF supports legislation that eases the burden of proof on impact fee challenges. This statutory fix will level the



Chris Dudley

Joined Southern Strategy Group in 2000 ... over 16 years legislative experience ... formerly served as Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Jeb Bush and as Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Legislative Director, and Special Assistant to former Lt. Governor Frank T. Brogan ... Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of South Florida.

Issues: Economic Development

playing field for businesses in any court challenge so that governments are not presumed correct in their methodology when increasing an impact fee or crafting a new one.

HB 227 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-49.

👍 HB 267 – Relating to Affordable Housing by Rep. Keith Fitzgerald (D-Sarasota)

The measure seeks to clarify language regarding taxation of Community Land Trusts. Currently, land trusts are being taxed at full value. The bill would require that assessments be based on the land lease value. The effect on trust property is a reduction in the assessment on those properties, thereby enhancing Florida’s affordable housing stock.

AIF supports all efforts to improve Florida’s affordable housing stock. Affordable housing remains a factor in stimulating the larger housing market. Additionally, it has direct implications on Florida’s workforce, which is particularly important because of the state’s emphasis on stimulating and sustaining economic activity.

CS/HB 267 died on the House calendar; Senate companion CS/CS/SB 1040 Died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

👍 SB 360 – Relating to Growth Management by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) PRIORITY

The bill includes exemptions for projects from both transportation concurrency and the DRI process, but is limited to urban service boundary areas of those defined counties and cities. The bill also includes a provision crediting the costs of improvements of certain transportation facilities paid by the developer towards fair share obligations.

AIF supports this measure as a way to stimulate Florida’s economy through low cost regulatory measures that seek to reduce unnecessary government oversight.

SB 360 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-96.

👍 SB 362 Relating to Growth Management by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

The bill creates a definition for “dense urban land area”, which was originally carried in a similar measure and allows transportation concurrency to be relaxed. This bill is important to AIF because it broadens those dense urban

land areas that were scaled back in SB 360. It would apply to much broader areas than just the urban service boundaries of local government.

AIF supports efforts to streamline and reform Florida’s growth management laws. This is important to employers because they have the potential to impact the construction of roads, schools, and water projects, which are essential to economic development.

CS/CS/SB 362 died on the Senate calendar.

👍 SB 364 – Relating to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

The measure aims to simplify state licensing and permitting by providing a central point for collection of data and fees. By 2010 the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Transportation (DOT), DCA, Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Department of Revenue (DOR) as well as the five water management districts must all be online, with other agencies to follow by 2011. The program would be designated E-Shop Florida.

AIF supports efforts to streamline and reform Florida’s growth management laws. This is important to employers because they have the potential to impact the construction of roads, schools, and water projects, which are essential to economic development.



Leslie Foy

Assistant Director of Greenberg Traurig’s Tallahassee Governmental Affairs practice ... state legislative practice spans over 21 years representing health and life insurers, investor-owned health care facilities, and assisted living facilities ... formerly served as the Director of Government Affairs for the Florida Chamber of Commerce ... well-versed in grassroots and campaign development techniques having previously served as AIF’s Chief Political Officer.

Issues: Health Care

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

CS/SB 364 died in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

👍 SB 630 – Relating to Impact Fees/Moratorium on Imposition or Collection by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

The bill places a three-year moratorium on the imposition or collection of impact fees by a municipality or county.

AIF supports efforts to streamline and reform Florida's growth management laws. This is important to employers because they have the potential to impact the construction of roads, schools, and water projects, which are essential to economic development.

CS/SB 630 died in the Senate finance and Tax Committee.

👍 SB 856 – Relating to Coastal Management by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

The bill exempts certain port-related commercial or industrial projects located in, or within 3 miles of, a port master plan area and which rely upon the use of port and Intermodal transportation facilities from the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review. This legislation will help these types of projects proceed more rapidly and with less government oversight.

AIF supports this measure to help expedite the permit process for port-related commercial or industrial developments. Ports and their related businesses are important to Florida's overall economy, and anything government can do to help them expand will help us in these hard economic times.

CS/SB 856 died in the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee; House companion HB 441 died in the House Roads, Bridges and Ports Policy Committee.

👍 SB 1306 – Relating to Growth Management by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

The bill defines "dense urban areas". allows a local government in certain circumstances to designate transportation concurrency exception areas, clearly states that a developer may not be required to fund or construct proportionate share mitigation greater than that needed to offset its impacts, encourages job creating development through incentives and expedited permitting, and directs the DCA and DOT to coordinate in the development of a mobility fee methodology.

AIF supports reforms to Florida's current growth management laws. For starters, legislators should look towards the development of a true "fair share" system of payment for school and transportation concurrency. Developers and builders should not be forced to pay for those who came before them, instead of their own impacts. These charges can and have made projects financially unfeasible.

CS/CS/SB 1306 died pending reference under Rule 4.7(2); House companion HB 7049 died in the House Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Council.

👍 HB 7053 – Relating to Rural Agricultural Industrial Centers by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers) **PRIORITY**

The bill authorizes the expansion of existing agricultural and industrial facilities employing at least 200 employees, and restricts such expansion to like uses. Spurring this economic growth could aide in necessary job creation for those local areas.

AIF supports efforts to increase economic development in the rural parts of the state by expanding the provisions of Florida's agricultural industrial centers statutes.

HB 7053 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

HEALTH CARE

👍 SB 170 – Relating to Mary B. Hooks Act/Breast Cancer Treatment by Sen. Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa)

This bill requires that an HMO or an insurance contract provide coverage for breast cancer treatment, as well as insures that the inpatient hospital coverage for lymph node dissections must be for the time period determined to be medically necessary. It also provides for outpatient follow-up care. If the bill passes, and becomes the "Mary B. Hooks Act," it would be a mandate for insurers, which would ultimately cause an increase in health insurance premiums for businesses and their employees.

AIF opposes any health insurance mandate that makes coverage less affordable and accessible without greatly contributing to the increased well-being of all Floridians.

CS/SB 170 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means; House companion HB 95 died in the House Insurance, Business and Financial Affairs Policy Committee.



John French, Esq.

AIF Special Counsel for Election Law ... Forty years of experience in the legislative process... expertise in elections, health care, and taxation... A/V rated attorney with B.A. and J.D. degrees from Florida State University

Issues: Ethics, Election Reform



👍 SB 242 – Relating to Human Vaccinations by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)

The bill provides that a parent, legal guardian, or other authorized person has the right to choose an alternative immunization schedule rather than the one recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as long as the child is immunized prior to kindergarten or initial entry into a public or private school. The bill requires health care practitioners to provide the parent or legal guardian of a minor with a copy of the current vaccine information statement before administering any vaccine to the minor child.

AIF opposes any health insurance mandate that makes coverage less affordable and accessible without greatly contributing to the increased well-being of all Floridians.

CS/SB 242 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

👍 HB 285 – Relating to Medicaid Low-Income Pool and Disproportionate Share Program by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) **PRIORITY**

The bill aims to modify the makeup of the Low Income Pool (LIP) Council. The LIP Council is currently made up of representatives from the hospitals that receive income from the \$1 billion in Federal funds it draws down yearly. The bill also ensures that no registered lobbyists can serve on the council, as well as expands membership to non-hospital representatives.

AIF supports legislation that eliminates the Low Income Pool (LIP) Council and places responsibility for recommendation and distribution of these funds in the hands of the Legislature and experts at the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

HB 285 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-42.

👎 SB 308 – Relating to Developmental Disabilities by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)

The bill would require physicians to refer any child that exhibits symptoms of Autism to a specialist. The bill requires insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide direct access to an appropriate specialist for the diagnosis of autism.

AIF consistently opposes additional health insurance mandates because of their impact on the price of health care premiums for employers.

CS/CS/SB 308 died in the House Insurance, Business, and Financial Affairs Policy Committee; House companion CS/HB 89 died in the House Insurance, Business and Financial Affairs Policy Committee.

👎 SB 1122 – Relating to Health Insurance/Payment of Benefits/Claims Forms by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Ft. Walton Beach)

The bill would require a health insurer to pay an out-of-network provider directly if the patient assigns his or her benefits. Currently, a health plan provides payment to the patient if that patient chooses to receive services from a provider that does not have a contract with the plan. This is because the insurer's contract and, therefore, responsibility is to the insured.

AIF opposes legislation that would erode the important



Richard Gentry, Esq.

Head of Gentry & Associates, a government consulting firm in Tallahassee ... prior General and Legislative Counsel for the Florida Home Builders Association ... in his 25 years with the association, Mr. Gentry was actively involved in legislation which included growth management, affordable housing and environmental laws.

Issues: Growth Management, Workforce Housing

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

savings achieved by health plans through the establishment of provider networks. Businesses in Florida are struggling more than ever to keep providing health insurance for their employees; this legislation has the potential to increase health insurance premiums.

CS/SB 1122 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; House companion HB 855 was laid on the table.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SB 2574 – Relating to Information Technology by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)

The bill deletes an obsolete provision relating to the duties of the Legislative Budget Commission, revises certain duties of the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology, and creates the Office of Information Security within said agency.

AIF supports this measure because it addresses some of our concerns with the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology and makes improvements regarding the AEIT duties and the State Data Centers.

SB 2574 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-80.

SB 2694 – Relating to State Financial Matters by Sen. JD Alexander (R-Winter Haven)

The measure aims to strengthen the Legislature's authority over agency contracts that affect the state's budget. The bill specifies that the Legislature must grant specific authority in the General Appropriations Act before an agency may make transfers. It further provides that an agency may not enter into a contract which obligates the state to pay liquidated damages resulting from a breach or early termination by the agency, unless the Legislature authorizes it; requires the state to pay interest to another party because the agency has an insufficient budget to pay the underlying obligation; and binds the state to make future-year payments to offset payments not made in the current year, unless the Legislature authorizes it.

AIF opposes this bill because it severely restricts the private sector from doing business with the state by having such punitive provisions on contracting.

SB 2694 was vetoed by the Governor.

INSURANCE

HB 853 – Relating to Surplus Lines Insurers by Rep. Pat Patterson (R-Deland) PRIORITY

The bill addresses the surplus lines insurance exemption from chapter 627, F.S., by providing the provisions of chapter 627, F.S., do not apply to surplus lines insurance unless a statutory section in chapter 627, F.S., specifically states it applies to such insurers. On June 26, 2008, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that surplus lines insurance is not exempt from all of these requirements. The practical impact of the Supreme Court decision is the elimination of surplus lines insurance in Florida. If this finding is not addressed legislatively, insurance will not be available for hard-to-place or unique commercial risks as well as high-value or unique residential properties.

AIF supports this measure to ensure the continued accessibility of Surplus Lines insurance in Florida. Approximately fifteen percent of Florida businesses procure their property and liability insurance through the Surplus Lines insurance market. Without this, market insurance will not be available to many of these businesses with hard-to-place risks and unique insurance needs.

HB 853 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

HB 1171 – Relating to Residential Property Insurance by Rep. Bill Proctor (R-St. Augustine) PRIORITY

The bill provides Floridians with the valuable freedom to choose the type of residential policy and premium that is best for them without unnecessary intervention from regulators. Many homeowners across Florida have developed strong relationships with their insurance carriers over the years and, therefore, would like the option of keeping their coverage regardless of the price.

AIF supports this legislation. The return of a competitive private property insurance market to Florida has been one of AIF's main priorities since the dreadful 2004-2005 hurricane seasons.

CS/CS/HB 1171 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; Senate companion CS/SB 2036 was laid on the table.



Peter Harris, Esq.

President and CEO of ADG Business & Governmental Consultants ... more than 18 years experience successfully designing and implementing substantive legislative, governmental and management programs for business and government ... effectively worked with key policy makers in all branches of government ... graduate of the University of Miami and Florida State University College of Law.

Issues: Workforce Development, Workforce Housing, Governmental Outsourcing Council



“As a Florida employer, I am grateful for AIF’s leadership and their long-time involvement in property insurance reform issues. AIF’s recommendations and advocacy on behalf of the business community played an important role in reducing the potential of new “hurricane taxes” on an employer’s insurance policies.”

– Mark Bostick, President, Comcar Industries, Inc.

👍 HB 1495 – Relating to Insurance by Rep. Bryan Nelson (R-Apopka) PRIORITY

The bill contains provisions that will help restore Florida’s private property insurance market. Most importantly, the bill contains a “glide path” for Citizens Insurance premium increases that will bring rates closer to actuarial soundness. This bill was one of AIF’s top priorities for the 2009 session.

AIF supports this legislation as a way to remove the existing freeze on Citizens’ rates; reduce Cat Fund coverages; continue the state’s home hurricane loss mitigation program, My Safe Florida Home; and encourage the restoration of Florida’s private property insurance market.

HB 1495 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-87.

👍 SB 2282 – Relating to First-responder Services by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

Known fondly as the bill to eliminate the “crash tax,” this legislation would prohibit local governments from imposing a fee when responding to a motor vehicle accident, fire or other emergency situation.

AIF supports efforts to prohibit local governments from charging Floridians and businesses an accident tax simply in response to emergency services being provided. Floridians already pay property taxes, which are designed to pay for government services. This practice is nothing more than double taxation.

SB 2282 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL

👍 HB 215 – Relating to Contingency Fees for Attorneys Hired by the Attorney General by Representative Erik Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)

The bill provides for great transparency and accountability in the hiring of outside attorneys by the Attorney General and the Department of Legal Affairs. The bill prohibits the Department of Legal Affairs from entering into a contingency fee contract with a private attorney unless the Attorney General (AG) makes a written determination before entering such contract that contingency fee representation is both cost-effective and in the public interest. This bill requires the AG to request proposals from private attorneys to represent the Department on a contingency fee basis and requires attorneys to keep time records in increments of no greater than one-tenth of an hour. This bill prohibits contingency fee contracts entered into by the Department to exceed an aggregate contingency fee in excess of specified amounts. This bill prohibits a total aggregate contingency fee in excess of \$50 million, except when the AG determines, upon consultation with the Cabinet, that there are exigent or unusual circumstances or special legal knowledge or experience is required, and provides written evidence of this. Lastly, this bill requires copies of executed contingency fee agreements, as well as payment of contingency fees, to be posted on the Department’s website.

AIF supports efforts to add transparency and accountability in the hiring of outside counsel by the Attorney Gen-



Nick Larossi, Esq.

Founding Partner of Capital City Consulting, LLC ... with more than eight years legislative experience ... formerly worked in the Florida Senate, The Florida House of Representatives and the Office of Insurance Regulation ... expertise in banking and insurance, privacy and public records, health care, procurement, parimutuels, technology, and education ... graduate from Florida State University College of Law.

Issues: Insurance, Privacy

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF



Members of AIF's leadership team share a moment with Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp who addressed AIF members at the Annual Jacksonville Pre-Session Briefing.

eral's office. This practice will ensure that tax dollars will be wisely spent and not wasted on costly attorney's fees.

CS/CS/HB 215 died in Senate messages; Senate companion SB 1370 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 363 – Relating to Parental Authority by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee)

Last year, the Supreme Court of Florida, in the case of Kirton vs. Fields, held that parents do not have the right to release a provider from liability for injury on behalf of a child. HB 363 codifies in Florida law the authority of a parent to waive liability on behalf of their minor child.

AIF supports the right of parents to waive liability on behalf of their minor children and thanks Representative Horner for taking on this important issue. Without liability protection from a waiver, many businesses, particularly in the recreation and sports industries, will not allow minors to participate. Since many of these businesses cater to families, tourism, or directly to minors, this could impact their ability to stay in business.

CS/HB 363 died on the House calendar; Senate companion CS/SB 886 died in the Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee.

👍 HB 495 – Relating to Negligence by Rep. Dave Murzin (R-Pensacola)

The bill would correct a court ruling and require plaintiffs alleging a business owner's negligence for slip and fall injuries to prove that the business owner knew or should have known about any conditions on the premises that caused or significantly contributed to the injury.

AIF supports legislation which protects business owners from costly and frivolous litigation.

HB 495 died in the House Criminal and Civil Justice Policy Council; Senate companion SB 2402 died in the Senate Commerce Committee.

👍 SB 872 – Relating to Fictitious Names by Sen. Chris Smith (D-West Palm Beach) **PRIORITY**

Public notice laws are an important issue and are included in AIF's 2009 Session Priorities. In 2001, the Legislature gave the Secretary of State the authority to waive the requirement to publish a fictitious name in a newspaper of general circulation and post those names on their website. The current exemption language does not provide notice to individuals who do not have access to the internet. SB 872 will still allow fictitious names to be posted on the Secretary of State's website, but reinstates that fictitious names are to be published as well.

AIF is a member of Keep the Public Noticed Coalition, a broad-based group which believes that legal notices should be published and posted on the internet to increase the opportunity for the public to receive important information. This change in the fictitious name law will protect the public by providing information on the parties who are doing business in their area in a local newspaper as well as on the Secretary of State website.

SB 872 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

👍 HB 903 – Relating to Attorney's Fees in Workers' Compensation Cases by Rep. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) **PRIORITY**

The bill clearly and precisely corrects the statutory ambiguity identified in the workers' compensation law by the Florida Supreme Court in the Murray ruling. The bill is important to Florida's economy and critical to job creation.

AIF supports efforts to pass workers' compensation legislation that clarifies the intent of the 2003 reforms and prevents Florida's workers' compensation system from deteriorating to pre-2003 status.

HB 903 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-94.



H. Frank Meiners

President, Frank Meiners Governmental Consultants, LLC ... formerly with BellSouth as their Executive Director in Tallahassee where he lobbied communications issues ... more than 30 years legislative experience ... graduate of the University of South Florida in Mathematics and of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Issues: Taxation, Information Technology Council

“When a judicial decision threatened Florida’s workers’ compensation system, we turned to AIF as Florida’s business voice to develop and advocate the legislative changes needed to avoid unbridled litigation and allow us to continue providing safe and successful workplaces for our most valuable asset — our employees.”

– Eric Brewer, Director, Public Affairs, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

 **SB 2108 – Relating to State Court Funding by Sen. Ken Pruitt (R-Port St. Lucie)** **PRIORITY**

This bill creates a better mechanism for funding of Florida’s court system by placing more legislative oversight on the court fees and fines that are collected by the clerks of courts. This will provide more adequate funding directly to the court system, which will help ensure that cases are heard and decided quickly and more efficiently. The bill does not remove or terminate employees in the clerks of court offices around the state, as some had feared earlier in the committee process.

AIF strongly encourages the Florida Legislature to fund the court system adequately and swiftly at a level equivalent to the judiciary’s status as the third equal branch of government.

CS/CS/SB 2108 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; House companion CS/HB 1121 was laid on the table.

SPACE

 **HB 69 – Relating to Space Industry by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)** **PRIORITY**

The bill creates the Space Technology and Research Development Institute (STRDI) within the Governor’s Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development and supported by Space Florida. The Space Technology and Research Devel-

opment Institute will be a university-based program, led by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, to provide research and development and policy analysis to improve the competitiveness of the space transportation industry in Florida.

As mentioned in *ESP 2.0*, AIF fully supports diversification of the space industry through university-based and applied technology programs across the state.

CS/HB 69 died in Senate messages; Senate companion CS/SB 888 died on the Senate calendar.

 **SB 1526 – Relating to Commercial Launch Zone Tax Incentives by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)**

PRIORITY

This bill essentially enacts a proposal known as the “Commercial Launch Zone” or CLZ in Florida’s space coast. The bill creates four corporate income tax credits, available for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, for certified commercial spaceflight businesses that meet job creation and investment levels and participate in a successful launch within the 3 previous years.

AIF strongly supports the creation of a Commercial Launch Zone. Florida’s space industry is a \$2 billion economic driver that employs 30,000 Floridians in 47 of Florida’s 67 counties; therefore, we must do everything in our power to maintain our prominence in space.

CS/SB 1526 died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee; House companion HB 423 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.

 **SB 2156 – Relating to Tax Credits/Aerospace Sector by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne)**

The bill would address important workforce issues by creating two corporate income tax credits related to aerospace employment. Specifically, the measure creates the Aerospace Sector Jobs Tax Credit and the Tuition Reimbursement Tax Credit.

AIF supports legislation that provides incentives like tax credits to companies which hire Floridians to work in the aerospace industry.

CS/SB 2156 died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee; House companion HB 1115 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.



David Rancourt

Founding Partner of Southern Strategy Group with more than 22 years legislative experience ... formerly served as Director of the Florida Division of Elections, as Deputy Secretary of State, and Deputy Chief of Staff under Governor Jeb Bush ... serves a strong client base with varied interests in both executive and legislative branches of government ... holds a B.S. in Economics from Florida State University and a Master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Florida.

Issues: Executive Branch

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

TAXATION

👍 HJR 385 – Relating to Limitation on Aggregate Ad Valorem Taxes on Real Property by Rep. David Rivera (R-Miami)

This joint resolution caps total ad valorem tax on parcel of real property to 1.35 percent of highest taxable value of property.

AIF supports efforts to limit ad valorem tax rates for Florida's employers and residents.

HJR 385 died in Senate messages; Senate companion SJR 738 died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

👍 HB 521 - Relating to Ad Valorem Tax Assessment Challenges by Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R-Miami)

PRIORITY

This bill levels the playing field between property appraisers and property owners. The current property appraisal system is weighed heavily on the side of property appraisers. This legislation would require property appraisers to prove that their assessment of a property's value was arrived at by complying with all Florida laws.

AIF supports legislation that addresses ad valorem assessment value challenges, including revising the burden of proof and the presumption of correctness to level the playing field for taxpayers.

HB 521 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-121.

👍 SJR 532 – Relating to Rental Property Assessments/ Homestead Exemption by Sen. Evelyn Lynn (R-Daytona Beach)

PRIORITY

The bill amends sections 4 and 6 of Article VII of the State Constitution to give another homestead exemption to first-time homebuyers and to change the cap on non-homestead real property from 10 percent to 5 percent.

AIF supports lowering the current cap on non-homestead properties to 5 percent from 10 percent. However, this cap should apply to all non-homestead property, not just real property. This provision will help AIF members control their costs of doing business and will allow them to be more competitive in the marketplace.

SJR 532 was signed by officers and filed with Secretary of State.

“When we needed a strong voice in opposition to more taxes, AIF was there to meet the challenges head-on. Their uncompromising courage is exactly what the business community needed to fight back some very damaging tax proposal coming out of the Legislature”

– Doug Bailey, Region Director, Government Affairs, Anheuser-Busch

👍 HB 701 – Relating to Notices of Proposed Property Taxes by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples)

The bill simply changes the current Truth in Millage notice (TRIM) to include the last year's millage rate, the current year's millage rate if a proposed budget change is made, and the current year's millage rate if no budget change is made.

AIF supports this bill because it informs taxpayers of what their elected officials are doing relative to the tax millage rates; which, of course, are multiplied by the assessed value of your property to determine your total property tax bill.

HB 701 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

👎 SB 784 – Relating to Job Opportunities for Youth by Sen. Gary Siplin (D-Orlando)

The bill provides a new funding source for programs created under the Jobs for Florida's Graduates (JFG) program, provides legislative intent, and establishes criteria and fiscal oversight for the statewide program. The bill amends s. 561.121, F.S., relating to the distribution of alcoholic beverage excise taxes. Under the bill, the percentage of excise tax revenue deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund would be reduced from 2 percent to 1.85 percent of monthly collections. In addition, the bill establishes a new tax of 6.95 percent of net collections on malt beverages for the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates to operate the statewide youth summer employment program. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation estimates



Jim Rathbun

President of Rathbun & Associates ... more than 20 years experience representing individuals and entities before the legislature, state agencies, Governor, and Cabinet ... formerly worked with the Florida House of Representatives and served as Staff Director of the House Republican Office ... B.S. from Florida State University.

Issues: Energy & Utilities, Florida Energy Council

that this bill will result in a recurring annual reduction to General Revenue of \$1.4 million.

AIF opposes legislation that would increase the excise tax on alcoholic beverages. The beer industry in Florida employs thousands of Floridians and is a vital part of our state's economy. This type of selective tax increase is unfair and would only hurt a small segment of the population.

CS/SB 784 died in House messages.

👍 SB 1112 – Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY

This is top priority bill for AIF and the business community this year as it corrects an unintended yet expensive error included in the annual corporate income tax bill passed last session. Normally, this bill just codifies existing changes in the IRS code so that businesses in Florida don't have to keep two sets of books. Unfortunately, last year's error would have forced Florida businesses to overpay state corporate income taxes. AIF, along with a number of its business community colleagues, spent weeks during the fall of 2008 to bring attention to and ultimately resolve this glitch, which had the potential to cost employers in Florida hundreds of millions of dollars and discourage companies from making important end-of-the-year investments across the state.

AIF supports the passage of a corporate income tax glitch bill in order to avoid a costly and unwarranted tax increase for businesses in Florida.

SB 1112 was approved by the Governor and assigned



Stephen W. Shiver

Director of Governmental Affairs for the Advocacy Group at Tew Cardenas ... over 10 years legislative and campaign experience ... former aide to House Speaker Tom Feeney and Majority Office Liaison to House Majority Leader Mike Fasano ... former Executive Director for the Republican Party of Florida ... has represented some of Florida's largest corporate and governmental agencies before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida State University.

Issues: Economic Development

Chapter Number 2009-18; House companion HB 459 was laid on the table.

👍 SB 1468 – Relating to Working Waterfront Property by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) PRIORITY

This legislation implements the language of the constitutional amendment approved by voters in the November 2008 General Election. Amendment 6 changes the way businesses located on working waterfronts are assessed property taxes. Currently, they are being assessed at "highest and best use," but the constitutional amendment changes it to "current use."

AIF was actively involved with the passage of Amendment 6 and is supporting this measure to implement it. Working waterfront properties should be taxed at their current use and not at the highest and best use as they are today. The marine industry has an economic impact of approximately \$18 billion per year and employ over 220,000 people in our state. This industry is too important to lose to other states because of our property tax system.

CS/CS/SB 1468 died in Senate messages; House companion CS/HB 825 was laid on the table.

👎 SB 1840 – Relating to Protecting Health/Surcharge on Tobacco Products by Sen. Ted Deutch (D-Delray Beach)

The bill would increase the excise taxes on cigarettes by \$1.00. The bill would also enact a \$1.00 per ounce tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. The new revenues derived from this tax increase would be deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund.

AIF is strongly opposed to increases in any form of excise taxes.

SB 1840 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-79.

👎 SB 2270 – Relating to Corporate Income Tax/Water's Edge by Sen. Dan Gelber (D-Miami Beach)

The bill mandates combined reporting by requiring all members of a unitary business (water's edge group) to file a combined return and to apportion income to Florida using

Sen. Mike Haridopolos is a strong supporter of AIF and its members. His leadership on tax policies has ensured that Florida's business climate continues to attract investment in our state.

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF



Throughout the year, legislative leaders meet with AIF members on issues important to the business community. Here we have Sen. Thad Altman, Chairman of the Senate Finance & Tax Committee at an AIF Taxation Committee meeting.

a single apportionment computation. Under current Florida law, corporations operating both in Florida and in other parts of the U.S. pay taxes depending on the portion of their total sales, payroll, and property located in Florida, as opposed to those portions located in all states. Corporations, which are members of federally defined affiliated groups, have the choice of filing as a separate entity or as a consolidated group. Florida exempts “foreign source income” from its corporate-income tax. Income, such as dividends, paid to a corporation operating in Florida by subsidiaries located in foreign countries is not included in the calculation of Florida income.

AIF strongly opposes this bill because it is overly broad and discourages investment and, therefore, economic development in the state. Moreover, the bill includes provisions that no other competing state currently has, putting Florida at a real disadvantage when competing for jobs with other SE states. In addition, there is doubt that it will increase revenues for the state based on an Ernst and Young LLP study.

SB 2270 died in the Senate policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means; House companion HB 1247 died in the House Criminal and Civil Justice Policy Council.

👍 SB 2504 – Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne)

This is the annual corporate “piggyback” bill, which updates the Florida Income Tax Code to reflect changes Congress made to the Internal Revenue Code by adopting

the Code as in effect on January 1, 2009. As was the case last year, the bill does not adopt federal bonus depreciation provisions due to the state’s financial situation.

AIF supports passage of SB 2504 so that Florida businesses do not have to endure the burdensome task of filing duplicative tax records.

SB 2504 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

👎 SB 2546 – Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne)

The bill aims to modernize the Florida statutes compared to other states and would make income tax fair for home-grown Florida companies by requiring multi-state companies to more appropriately apportion their share of income taxes to Florida.

AIF strongly opposes this bill because it is overly broad and discourages investment; and, therefore, economic development in the state. Moreover, the bill includes provisions that no other competing state currently has, putting Florida at a real disadvantage when competing for jobs with our neighboring states.

CS/SB 2546 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

👎 HB 5121 – Relating to Environmental Protection by Rep. Ralph Poppell (R-Titusville)

The bill revises statutory provisions governing several trust funds and programs within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Of more concern for the business community, however, was the inclusion of a provision that would establish a new solid waste disposal fee to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

AIF opposes the creation of this new solid waste disposal “tax.” During these difficult economic times, the last thing Florida employers need is an additional tax on their businesses.

HB 5121 was laid on the table.



Stacey Webb

Joined Southern Strategy Group after serving as Assistant Chancellor for Community Colleges at the Florida Department of Education leading the division’s legislative efforts on issues relating to economic and workforce development ... also served as Staff Director and Majority Office Senior Analyst with the House of Representatives ... 14 years legislative experience ... received a B.A. from Stetson University and a M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida.

Issues: Education, Florida Council on Education & Workforce Development

TELECOMMUNICATION

SB 2626 – Relating to Telecommunication Companies by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) **PRIORITY**

The bill allows for the competitive market to serve as the regulator of non-basic telecommunications service, but continues to have Public Service Commission (PSC) regulation over basic service. The measure would also allow for the continuation of the price cap of CPI minus 1 percent on basic service to apply even when a customer added a non-basic service. This was a change from a two-year period to forever for this price cap.

AIF supports this measure because it brings fair competition to the communications industry by creating a level playing field among the many providers of telecommunications services in Florida, including wireless, cable, VoIP and the incumbent local exchange carriers. The open competition will benefit our members with new and innovative services that may not be offered without a level playing field among the competitors.

CS/CS/SB 2626 passed both the House and the Senate and was ordered enrolled; House companion CS/CS/HB 1465 was laid on the table.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 582 – Relating to Transportation by Sen. Carey Baker (R-Eustis)

This bill provides legislative findings and creates the Florida Transportation Revenue Study Commission to examine transportation needs and develop funding recommendations. The commission's membership and meeting requirements are established and federal planning funds are appropriated from the State Transportation Trust Fund to pay for staff services and other associated costs of the commission. Towards the end of session, the bill picked up a number of other transportation-related provisions including transportation concurrency requirements.

AIF supported a number of the provisions included within this legislation, especially those relaxing the state's transportation concurrency requirements.

CS/SB 582 died in House messages; House companion CS/CS/HB 1451 was laid on the table.

“AIF’s leadership helped Florida’s maritime businesses cut through over-burdensome red tape and reduce duplicative credentialing costs so we can focus on creating jobs and expanding Florida’s global position as a leading exporter of goods to the Caribbean, Latin America and beyond.”

– Rick Murrell, Chairman and President, Tropical Shipping

HB 1021 – Relating to Department of Transportation by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral)

The bill aims to exempt certain seaport-related projects from development-of-regional-impact (DRI) review; authorize DOT to award stipends to unsuccessful bidders for state-funded construction and maintenance contracts; increase from \$100 million to \$250 million the maximum dollar amount for projects which may be added to DOT's work program when funded by other governmental entities; create a new reimbursement program for small counties to loan up to \$200 million to DOT in order to advance projects outside the adopted work program; reinstate the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program (SCRAP) in 2012; and remove certain eligibility criteria relating to ad valorem tax rates.

AIF supports various provisions within the legislation that are beneficial to AIF members.

HB 1021 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-85 ; See also HB 5013 (Ch. 2009-89).

SB 1212 – Relating to Public Transit by Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs) **PRIORITY**

The bill provides the Florida Department of Transportation with the authority to contractually indemnify freight rail operators when using a rail corridor with commuter rail operations. State approval of the “SunRail” project is top priority for Associated Industries of Florida. This project will bring immediate economic activity and jobs to the Central Florida region and other parts of the state at a time when



Gerald Wester

Managing Partner, Capital City Consulting, LLC ... former Chief Deputy over Florida Department of Insurance's regulatory staff ... more than 33 years lobbying experience ... expertise in insurance, banking, and health care issues ... Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Florida State University.

Issues: Insurance, Financial Services Council

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

our state's economy is reeling from the effects of the current national recession.

AIF supports efforts to approve the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project. This project will not only create jobs in the Orlando area, but throughout the state of Florida while injecting over \$1.2 billion into the economy over the next 18-24 months. This project will lay the foundation for improved passenger transportation and freight distribution in Florida, thus ensuring our state's ability to remain competitive and meet the challenges of expanded global trade.

CS/CS/SB 1212 died on the Senate calendar; House companion HB 7009 died in the House.

👍 HB 7141 – Relating to Seaport Security by Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Oviedo) PRIORITY

The measure will substantially reduce the costs of doing business in Florida seaports through lowering the charges payable for criminal background checks and other credentialing processes for seaport access. The legislation also provides private sector business with a voice on the Seaport Security Advisory Council.

AIF and its Florida Maritime Council (FMC) support this legislation because it significantly reduces the costs to employers conducting business at Florida's public seaports.

HB 7141 was signed by officers and presented to the Governor.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

👍 SB 516 – Relating to Unemployment Compensation by Sen. Tony Hill (D-Jacksonville)

The bill aims to expand the qualification requirements for unemployment benefits. This expansion is supported by certain legislators as a way to attract \$444 million in federal stimulus funds. However, this funding is only a one-time distribution, while the substantive benefit expansion will cost employers in Florida \$74 million each year, and require the statutory changes to be permanent. In the long run, the benefit expansion is much more costly to businesses than the short-term federal funding availability.

AIF opposes this bill for the significant and lasting increase it forces on the unemployment taxes paid by Florida employers.

CS/SB 516 died in the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means; House companion HB 1333 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.

👍 SB 810 – Relating to Unemployment Compensation by Sen. Rudy Garcia (R-Miami) PRIORITY

This legislation addresses the looming insolvency of Florida's unemployment compensation trust fund. The bill



aims to increase the taxable wage base upon which unemployment taxes are calculated from \$7,000 to \$8,500; permanently increase the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund trigger thresholds from 3.7 percent to 4 percent and 4.7 percent to 5 percent; reduce the period within which an employer may recoup its tax credits from 4 years to 3 years to better stabilize the fund; and extend the eligibility of current unemployment recipients through approximately \$700 million in federal stimulus funds available from the federal government. These measures will represent an increase in the average Florida employer's unemployment tax of approximately \$35 per employee for small employers with a minimal experience rating. However, the measures are said to be needed to avoid imposition of a forced repayment program from the federal government that would likely result in loss of some or all employer unemployment compensation tax credits and an additional legislative assessment on all employers above the current tax level.

AIF supports the passage of this bill as the best means for Florida's employers to mitigate the increasing levels of unemployment our state is facing and ensure adequacy in funding of the system. We are committed to continuing to work with legislative and agency leaders to develop and implement the least expensive means of addressing the looming insolvency.

SB 810 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2009-99.

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Champions for Business



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

For more than three decades, Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on every major business issue. The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not that legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to 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 running for re-election deserve our support. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story.

AIF instituted the *Champion for Business* award in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who do more than vote for business and provide leadership on key legislation. A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes risks 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.

The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has been good for business and who has been bad, we leave no stone unturned.

This year, AIF selected those legislators who we deem are strong and forceful advocates for the business community. In our collective wisdom, these nine legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session. In addition, we have highlighted five legislators this year as *Honorable Mentions* for their contributions to furthering the business agenda. Last, but certainly not least, AIF is proud to present *Council Awards* to a group of policymakers who exhibited great leadership on behalf of AIF's Council System.

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the senators and representatives we turned to when we needed someone on whom we could depend.



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA
The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

Champions for Business

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the leaders we turned to when we needed someone we could depend upon.

Rep. Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award. As the Speaker-Designate for the House of Representatives, Rep. Cannon continues to be a loyal defender of the free-enterprise system. He has a clear understanding of what it takes to grow Florida's economy and protect our business climate. This year, Rep. Cannon was instrumental in leading the debate regarding Florida's role in the production and exploration of natural gas and oil. Rep. Cannon brought forth a proposal that would create a process by which the Florida Cabinet could review applications for future drilling and exploration in Florida waters. This proposal sparked a statewide debate over Florida's right to reap the benefits of this industry. His proposal, which was amended onto existing legislation by Rep. Charles Van Zant, was eventually passed by the Florida House of Representatives and will undoubtedly be readdressed during next year's legis-



2009 CFB Winner

lative session. AIF has been a long-time supporter of off-shore drilling and we are deeply thankful for Rep. Cannon's leadership on this issue. For this we are proud to recognize Rep. Dean Cannon as a *Champion for Business*.

Rep. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) is now a two-time AIF *Champion for Business* recipient. This year, Rep. Flores took on one of the most challenging issues any legislator could ask to undertake — preserving Florida's workers' compensation system and the significant reductions in workers' compensation rates achieved by the 2003 reforms. Not only did Rep. Flores have the responsibility of carrying the Speaker's number one priority, she also had to battle a number of anti-business groups who opposed any attempts to rectify the Florida Supreme Court's ruling that found the existing law "ambiguous." Throughout the debate, Rep. Flores kept the focus on what higher rates would mean to Florida's economy and the loss of jobs that would result from no action by the Legislature. Her steadfastness and cool, calm demeanor was exemplified on the floor of the House as she fielded numerous questions and attacks by opponents of her proposal. For her strong commitment to advancing AIF's number one session priority (HB 903), we are proud to call Rep. Anitere Flores a *Champion for Business*.



2009 CFB Winner

Rep. Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach) is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business* Award for his stalwart support of AIF's priorities and for his tackling of tough pro-business legislation.



2009 CFB Winner

For starters, Majority Leader Hasner's concern for Florida's employees led him to sponsor legislation (**HJR 1013**) that would place a proposed constitutional amendment before the voters, which would protect the secret ballot process in Florida. This proposal was in response to federal efforts that would eliminate the secret ballot vote in decisions by employees to be represented by a union. Leader Hasner was also instrumental in efforts by the business community to address our state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. Due to record unemployment levels, our state's unemployment compensation system is under intense pressure. Recognizing that something had to be done, AIF worked with Rep. Hasner and other legislative leaders on a plan to ensure solvency of the Trust Fund. For these reasons and for his overall support of our issues, we are proud to call Majority Leader Adam Hasner a *Champion for Business*.

Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R-Miami) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award. Since his arrival in the House of Representatives, Rep. Lopez-Cantera has sponsored legislation to reform Florida's property tax laws. This year, Rep. Lopez-Cantera passed one of the most pro-business pieces of legislation, **HB 521** Relating to Ad Valorem Assessments, which provides small and larger business owners with a level playing field when challenging the value at which the property appraiser assesses their property. Under current law, few individuals or employers attempt to challenge the Value Adjustment Boards because they have been advised that they have little chance of prevailing. This legislation will help to reverse that trend and create equality



2009 CFB Winner

for taxpayers when challenging their assessments. For this reason we are proud to call Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera a *Champion for Business*.

Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) is



2009 CFB Winner

receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award for sponsoring and passing one of AIF's priority bills for the 2009 session — **HB 285** Relat-

ing to Medicaid Low-Income Pool and Disproportionate Share Program. This legislation will improve the process by which Low Income Pool (LIP) funds are distributed to hospitals and health care facilities throughout the state. The LIP is a mixture of federal Medicaid funds and state matching funds provided by local governmental entities through inter-governmental transfers. The bill also makes noteworthy changes to the Low Income Pool Council such as prohibiting lobbyists from sitting on the Council. These changes provide Floridians with greater transparency and higher confidence that "conflicts of interest" are not tainting the process. Throughout the session, Rep. Patronis helped negotiate between all the interested parties and ultimately was able to pass a consensus work product that is good public policy for the state. For this reason, AIF is proud to call Rep. Jimmy Patronis a *Champion for Business*.

Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) is



2009 CFB Winner

receiving his first *Champion for Business* Award for sponsoring a number of AIF priority bills, most importantly **SB 2072** Relating to

Workers' Compensation. As a freshman Senator, Richter took on some major pieces of legislation, including a proposed constitutional amendment protecting the secret ballot process in Florida. As Chairman of the powerful

Banking and Insurance Committee, Senator Richter was also the sponsor of **SB 1950** — the main property insurance reform package. This legislation begins the process of bringing Citizens Insurance rates closer to actuarial soundness. In addition, it reduces the exposure of Florida's Cat Fund, thereby decreasing the potential for future assessments or "hurricane taxes" for businesses in Florida. These reforms represent a solid first step towards bringing back a healthy private property insurance market to Florida. For these reasons and many more, AIF is proud to call Sen. Garrett Richter a *Champion for Business*.



2009 CFB Winner

Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey) is now a two-time *Champion for Business* Award winner. This year, Sen. Fasano once again embraced

AIF and the business community's recommendations on how to kick-start Florida's economy. Sen. Fasano was the main Senate sponsor of two of the proposals included within this year's Economic Stimulus Package 2.0. For starters, he sponsored **SB 852** Relating to Economic Development Projects/Expedited Permitting, which allows for local governments to designate companies looking to expand or locate in their areas as "targeted industries" and require local and state permitting agencies to approve or deny permit applications within a 45-day timeframe. Additionally, Sen. Fasano was a driving force behind one of the most exciting economic development programs to be enacted in Florida. Known as the New Markets Development Program, this proposal will provide immediate access to capital for existing and start-up small businesses in Florida's low income communities by providing \$250 million in private sector investment within 12 months. For these reasons, AIF is proud to once again call Sen. Mike Fasano a *Champion for Business*.

Sen. Chris Smith (D-Ft. Lauderdale) is



2009 CFB Winner

receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award this year. After a brief hiatus and a respected track record in the Florida House, Sen. Smith returned

to the political arena last year with his election to the Senate. As a freshman Senator, Smith made a splash this year by sponsoring and voting in favor of a number of pro-business bills. Sen. Smith was a key player in this year's workers compensation battle as an early supporter of efforts by AIF to protect the rate savings achieved by the 2003 workers' comp reforms. In addition, Sen. Smith was the prime sponsor of **SB 872** Relating to Fictitious Names — an AIF priority bill that will protect the public by providing information on the parties who are doing business in their area in a local newspaper as well as on the Secretary of State's website. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Sen. Chris Smith a *Champion for Business*.

Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Ft. Walton Beach) is



2009 CFB Winner

receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award for his sponsorship of AIF priority legislation dealing with the Low Income

Pool Council. As the Senate sponsor for this proposal, Sen. Gaetz was instrumental in helping pass this transparency and accountability legislation, which will protect the integrity of how federal health care dollars are distributed among Florida's hospitals. Throughout the sixty-day process, Sen. Gaetz showed real leadership as he helped negotiate the terms of this important bill by bringing together a number of interested parties and finding consensus among differing opinions. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Sen. Don Gaetz a *Champion for Business*.

Honorable Mention

The following legislators have also made significant contributions that further the business agenda in Florida. Their efforts and dedication to issues important to employers should be highlighted. We applaud these five legislators for their continued support of AIF and its member companies.

Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers), as Chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, was the lead proponent of proposals to streamline the permitting process in Florida.



Honorable Mention

Rep. Williams was also the sponsor of **HB 7143** Relating to Regulatory Reform, a legislative package that contained a number of AIF sponsored recommendations, including permit extensions for certain projects; self-certification for permits, and elimination of duplicative permitting for agriculture. Although this package of much needed legislation did not pass in its entirety, a number of the ideas found their way onto other legislation that did pass this year. AIF would like to recognize Rep. Trudi Williams for her tireless efforts this year to pass meaningful regulatory reform in Florida.

Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) took on a difficult task when he decided to sponsor legislation designed to address a Florida Supreme Court ruling which disallowed the long-standing



Honorable Mention

practice of parents signing legal waivers allowing their children to participate in sports and other commercial activities. **HB 363** Relating to Parental Authority authorized natural guardians, on behalf of any of their minor children, to waive and release, in advance, any claim or cause of action that would apply to any of their minor children to the same extent that any adult may do so on his or her own behalf. Opponents of this bill battled against passage at every step of the way and Rep. Horner did a master-

ful job of deflating their arguments. AIF would like to recognize Rep. Horner for his courage in filing this important bill for the business community; and although the bill did not pass, we fully expect Rep. Horner to once again take on this issue next session.

Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) is a strong defender of the business community. This Space Coast legislator has demonstrated great interest in sponsoring legislation aimed at stimulat-



Honorable Mention

ing economic activity and advancing the state's business climate. This year, Rep. Hukill was the House sponsor of major growth management reforms, including **HB 7127** which relaxed a number of the school and transportation concurrency requirements currently in law, in order to encourage business growth throughout Florida. In addition, Rep. Hukill sponsored **HB 69** Relating to Space Industry. This AIF priority legislation would have implemented a multi-university Space Technology and Research Development Institute (STRDI) within the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) and supported by Space Florida. Rep. Hukill was able to steer **HB 69** through a unanimous vote on the House floor, but the bill ran into trouble in the Senate.

Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando) has made quite a name for himself among AIF members and the business community in his very first year in the Legislature. As one of the few pro-



Honorable Mention

business attorneys in the House, Rep. Eisnaugle took on a variety of anti-business groups on issues important to employers in Florida. He also sponsored a number of AIF priority bills, including **HB 215** Relating to Contingency Fees in the Attorney General's Office. Thanks to his leadership, **HB 215** passed the House of Representatives, but was stalled in the Senate. Rep. Eisnaugle is definitely one of the rising stars in the House of Representatives and we fully expect him to be in a leadership position in the near future.

Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) is a multiple Champion for Business Award winner and a great defender of the business community. This year, we are recognizing him for his strong



Honorable Mention

opposition of proposals originating in the Senate that would have dramatically altered Florida's tax structure and increased tax liabilities for employers in Florida. These proposals would have enacted Mandatory Combined Reporting in Florida and would have drastically changed the way income is apportioned by multi-state companies. Employers in Florida could have faced one of the largest tax increases in decades, and the success of a number of businesses was seriously in jeopardy. Sen. Haridopolos quickly understood the dangerous consequences of these proposals, and he made his displeasure known to others in Senate leadership. As a respected leader in the Senate, his opinion and influence made the difference at the most critical juncture.

Council Awards

Associated Industries of Florida is made up of a diverse group of businesses and associations that represent a wide array of economic sectors. AIF has organized a number of Councils in order to best represent groups of employers that share a common subject area or interest. AIF's Council system has already produced excellent results, both legislatively and politically.

Financial Services Council

Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) sponsored and helped pass one of AIF and the Council's top priorities for the 2009 legislative session – **SB 1894** dealing with surplus lines insurance. This legislation will ensure that Florida employers have access to this important market, which provides coverage for hard to place or unique commercial risks. In addition, Sen. Bennett sponsored and helped pass a number of other AIF-supported legislation, including **SB 2282**, more commonly known as the "crash tax" bill. This bill prohibits local governments from imposing a fee or seeking reimbursement for costs relating to certain first-responder services. For these reasons, AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to recognize Sen. Mike Bennett as its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.



Council Award

Rep. Bryan Nelson (R-Apoka) played a critical role this session in the area of property insurance reform – a perennial priority for AIF. Rep. Nelson was the prime sponsor of **HB 1495**, a bill that will begin the process of reducing potential assessments against business insurance premiums to pay for property losses resulting from a hurricane. Successful passage of this legislation ensures that the state of Florida will no longer charge Citizens Insurance rates that are not actuarially sound. In addition, the legislation phases out Cat Fund coverage and continues the My Safe Florida Home program. These provisions will go a long way in encourag-



Council Award

ing the restoration of Florida's private property insurance market. AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to designate Rep. Nelson as *Legislator of the Year*.

Rep. Pat Patterson (R-DeLand), as Chairman of the powerful House Insurance, Business, & Financial Affairs Policy Committee, oversaw the progress of a number of proposals of critical importance to members of the Council. In addition, he personally sponsored and helped pass **HB 853** dealing with surplus lines insurance. This AIF priority bill clarifies an ambiguity created by a recent Florida Supreme Court ruling by clearly stating that certain regulatory restrictions do not apply to surplus lines insurers. The bill will allow employers to continue to find property and liability insurance coverage tailored to meet their specific needs through the surplus lines market. For these reasons, AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to recognize Rep. Pat Patterson as *Legislator of the Year*.



Council Award

Florida Maritime Council

Sen. Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres), as Chairman of the Senate Military and Domestic Affairs Committee, took on the task of streamlining Florida's duplicitous seaport security regulations. Currently, Florida is the only state in the union that has an extra layer of security above and beyond federal standards. This has led to frustration and increased costs for tenants doing business in our 14 deep-water ports. For the last two years, AIF and its Maritime



Council Award

Council have made addressing these unnecessary and anti-competitive security regulations a priority. Thanks to Sen. Aronberg and his leadership, the business community was able to pass legislation this year that significantly reduces background screening costs for employers and eliminates the necessity for multiple security credentials at our ports. AIF's Florida Maritime Council is proud to designate Sen. Dave Aronberg as its *Legislator of the Year*.

Florida Energy Council

Rep. Charles Van Zant (R-Palatka), a freshman House member, sponsored one of the most talked about pieces of legislation this session. **HB 1219** started out as a bill requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a plan to implement an offshore oil and natural gas drilling program in Florida. His bill was amended to replace the current ban on drilling in Florida waters with a plan which would allow the governor and Florida Cabinet to charge \$1 million per application to explore state-controlled waters that stretch between 3 and 10 miles offshore. AIF played a major role in this proposal, and we are thankful for all of Rep. Van Zant's efforts on this important bill. Day after day, he took on the onslaught from opponents on the House floor and never once backed down. His leadership and perseverance led to the passage of **HB 1219** in the House, a historic victory for proponents of drilling in Florida waters. For these reasons, AIF's Florida Energy Council is proud to designate Rep. Van Zant as *Legislator of the Year*.



Council Award

Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) has been



Council Award

a long-time supporter of energy issues and future exploration and production of natural gas and oil in Florida waters.

This year, Rep.

McKeel sponsored a House Memorial urging the U.S. Congress to support the expiration and removal of the moratorium prohibiting exploration and production of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida, and to include Florida in revenue sharing resulting from the production of oil and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida. Rep. McKeel has always understood that allowing environmentally-sensitive access to these resources is not only in our na-

tional interest as a means of improving energy security, diversifying supply, and enhancing economic development; it also can serve as an important and much needed method for generating new revenues for the state of Florida. For these reasons, AIF's Florida Energy Council is proud to designate Rep. Seth McKeel as *Legislator of the Year*.

Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council

Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Miami), a freshman



Council Award

House member, sponsored AIF's top education priority for this year — **HB 1293** Relating to High School Graduation. This legislation raises

high school graduation standards to

new 21st Century Diploma standards, thereby ensuring that Florida's students are prepared to enter the increasingly competitive global economy. To provide for our state's future economic growth, the 21st Century Diploma Initiative requires a more rigorous curriculum to ensure all Florida's students are prepared to enter the competitive global economic community. Although the legislation did not ultimately pass this year, Rep. Fresen showed true commitment to this AIF priority and was able to pass the legislation out of the House of Representatives. We fully expect that this proposal will be the first bill filed by Rep. Fresen next year. For these reasons, AIF's Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council is proud to designate Rep. Erik Fresen as *Legislator of the Year*.

On AIF's web sites you'll find the information you need — *when you need it!*

Associated Industries of Florida Online – www.aif.com

AIF's main web site is your entryway to all of AIF's web pages, both public and "members only." It also gives access to AIF's Information Center, which contains:

- AIF's legislative proposals and Session Priorities
- AIF's legislative positions and Voting Records
- AIF publications and session reports
- Press releases and news articles
- E-mail links to legislators
- AIF polling data

... **And more!**

NOT A MEMBER?

If you don't already have an AIF login and password, call the **Membership Department at (850) 224-7173**. Or, on our web site, click on the Membership tab to learn more about membership, enroll as a member, and sign up for AIF's legislative and business services.

AIF Political Council Online – www.aifpc.com

This ultimate political web site for the Florida business community is available only to members of the Political Council, AIF's political research & information service:

- Political polling data
- District and voter demographics
- Biographical and issue profiles of candidates
- Analyses of candidate campaign contributions
- Ongoing news and activities from the campaign trail

... **And more!**

NOT A MEMBER?

Membership in AIFPC is separate from membership in AIF. If you don't already have an AIFPC login and password, contact Michelle Mattox, AIF's Chief Political Officer, at **(850) 224-7173** or mmattox@aif.com to find out more about AIF's political operations.

Past Champions for Business & Council Award Winners

2008 Champions for Business

Rep. Thad Altman – *Space Legislation*
Rep. Anitere Flores – *Education & Workforce Development*
Rep. Peter Nehr – *Property Tax Reform*
Rep. Ray Sansom – *Economic Development*
Rep. Baxter Troutman – *Metal Theft Legislation*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Administrative Procedures Act*
Sen. Mike Fasano – *Transportation*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Taxes*
Sen. Bill Posey – *Space Legislation*
Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Economic Development*

Honorable Mentions

Rep. Dean Cannon – *Central Florida Commuter Rail*
Rep. Jack Seiler – *Private Property Rights*
Rep. Maria Sachs – *Education*
Rep. Franklin Sands – *Support of AIF Agenda*
Sen. Lee Constantine – *Metal Theft Legislation*

Council “Legislator of the Year”

Financial Services Council

Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance*
Sen. Al Lawson – *Property Insurance*
CFO Alex Sink – *CatFund Reduction*

Florida Energy Council

Rep. Paige Kreegel – *Energy Legislation*

Florida Maritime Council

Rep. Kevin Ambler – *Seaport Security*

2007 Champions for Business

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*
Rep. Charlie Dean – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Alan Hays – *Property Insurance*
Rep. Rich Glorioso – *Transportation*

Honorable Mentions

Rep. Stan Mayfield – *Guns in the Workplace*
Rep. Don Brown – *Property Insurance Reform*
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*
Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Sure Ventures Commercialization Program*
Rep. Michael Grant – *Venture Capital Investment*

Council “Legislator of the Year”

Governmental Outsourcing Council

Rep. Aaron Bean – *Contracting Legislation*

Information Technology Council

Rep. Will Weatherford – *Enterprise Information Technology*
Sen. Al Lawson – *Enterprise Information Technology*

2006 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Support of Business Agenda*
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Senate President Tom Lee – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Rep. Marty Bowen – *Agriculture*
Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Rep. Fred Brummer – *Tax Reform*
Rep. Mike Davis – *Affordable Housing*
Rep. Adam Hasner – *Energy Legislation*
Rep. Matt Meadows – *Tax Incentives for Manufacturing*
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*
Rep. Marco Rubio – *Private Property Rights*
Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*
Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Relief for Businesses*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*
Sen. Jim King – *Economic Development*
Sen. Dan Webster – *Tort Reform*

2005 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Tort Reform*
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Frank Attkisson – *Private Sector Protection*
Rep. Holly Benson – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*
Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Fred Brummer – *Repeal of Intangible Tax*
Rep. Rene Garcia – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*
Rep. Joe Pickens – *Asbestos and Silica Reform Act*
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*
Rep. Dwight Stansel – *Tax Reform*
Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*

2004 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*
Rep. Kim Berfield – *Workers’ Compensation Reform*
Rep. Mike Davis – *Growth Management*
Rep. Jeff Kottkamp – *Premises Liability Legislation*
Rep. Bruce Kyle – *Court Funding*
Rep. Joe Negron – *Court Funding*
Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*
Sen. JD Alexander – *Workers’ Compensation Reform*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Rod Smith – *Court Funding*

2003 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*
Rep. Dudley Goodlette – *Workers’ Compensation*
Rep. Connie Mack – *Tort Reform*

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



SAVE THE
DATE!

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at The Breakers Palm Beach
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 - Preview of 2010 Election Season
 - Highlights of 2009 Session
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