



Joint Statement Regarding Florida Cabinet Action on Corporate Income Tax Glitch

December 9, 2008

The following is a joint statement from Barney Bishop, President & CEO, Associated Industries of Florida, Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Rick McAllister, President & CEO, Florida Retail Federation and Dominic Calabro, President & CEO, Florida TaxWatch:

Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Retail Federation and Florida TaxWatch applaud the action taken today by Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet to avoid negative economic impacts from the corporate income tax glitch.

The Florida Department of Revenue and Cabinet took the steps necessary to avert a financial crisis that would have further stymied our floundering economy, resulted in loss of jobs and hurt cash-strapped businesses. By approving this emergency rule, the original intent of the Legislature is met and Florida businesses will be able to take the depreciation deductions to which they are entitled.

Our organizations have been advocating for a solution to this extraordinarily time sensitive issue. With the calendar year coming to a close, and companies needing to make estimated tax payments, it was essential that this issue met some resolution within the week.

We commend Governor Crist, the Cabinet, and the Florida Department of Revenue for their ingenuity and dedication to finding a solution. The emergency rule passed today is a temporary stopgap and further legislative action must be taken to permanently rectify this issue. Both Senate President Jeff Atwater and Speaker of the House Ray Sansom have committed to correcting the legislation and we thank them for their leadership. Whether through a special session or in the first few days of the regular session, we look forward to working with legislators and staff to arrive at a permanent fix that will benefit the state and the businesses so critical to her economic vitality.

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