NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 25, 2006

CONTACT: Harvey Bennett
Communications Director
850-222-5052, ext. 20

Statement from Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of Florida TaxWatch on Governor Bush's Budget Vetoes:

"The Governor showed outstanding fiscal stewardship in his budget message and vetoes today. We have hefty reserves of more than $6 billion, a AAA bond rating, and there is no use of non-recurring revenue for recurring general revenue programs. If fact, this year Florida will use $285 million in recurring money to fund non-recurring programs, in effect a savings account, using money that we won't have to spend next year. The Governor has indeed set the bar to a new high for sound fiscal stewardship."

MEDIA NOTE: A detailed comparison of the Governor's vetoes (in yellow) and the TaxWatch list of "Budget Turkeys" released yesterday is attached to this list. The Governor vetoed 63% or 306 of Florida TaxWatch's 489 turkeys. That represents 51% of the total value of the $295 million in budget turkeys. It should be noted that the Governor's vetoes today include appropriations in substantive bills that were not included in our review as well as policy choices which don't fall under the TaxWatch "turkey" purview.

###

Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 26 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Our mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida Government. On the web at www.floridataxwatch.org