

PRE-LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

GOVERNORS CLUB • TALLAHASSEE • FEBRUARY 2, 2009



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

Associated Industries of Florida Hosts Successful Pre-Legislative Briefing

Over 100 AIF members and business leaders from across the state of Florida convened in Tallahassee on Monday, February 2nd to discuss the most pressing issues facing employers in Florida. A number of legislative leaders addressed the group, including **Senate President Jeff Atwater** (R-North Palm Beach), **House Majority Leader Adam Hasner** (R-Delray Beach), and both **House and Senate Democratic Leaders Rep. Franklin Sands** (D-Weston) and **Sen. Al Lawson** (D-Tallahassee). A major theme for the day was economic development and how to best stimulate Florida's economy. **Rep. Dave Murzin** (R-Pensacola), Chairman of the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council, and **Rep. Marcelo Llorente** (R-Miami), Chairman of the House Full Appropriations Council on General Government and Health Care, were also on hand to address AIF members. Sen. Jeremy Ring, Vice Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy, also spoke at the Briefing. **Congressman Allen Boyd** (D) was the featured lunch speaker.

Leader Hasner delivered an impassioned "call to action" for business leaders on the federal Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). Also known as "Card Check" this dangerous proposal has the potential to do away with an employee's right to a secret ballot. Rep. Hasner will be filing a resolution to place an amendment on the Florida Constitution to protect the secret ballot process in our state. AIF will be very active on this important issue for employers.

Workers' Compensation was also a hot topic at the Briefing. A number of the speakers touched upon the potential negative effects the recent *Murray* decision by Florida's Supreme Court will have on a company's bottom line. Regulators are already increasing workers' compensation rates as a result of this recent decision. AIF will continue to be the leader on this issue through the efforts of its *Workers' Compensation Coalition for Business and Industry*. This session, AIF will urge the Legislature to address judicial interpretation of the 2003 workers' compensation law and clarify its stated intent.

As the annual start to the legislative season, this event brings together top legislative leaders with representatives from business associations and some of the major employers in Florida. AIF's legislative consultants were also on hand to brief members on the 2009 Session Priorities for the business community.

At the meeting it was announced that in addition to focusing on perennial business issues like property insurance, taxation, and health care, AIF, alongside more than 20 business groups, will be advancing an *Economic Stimulus Package* for the second year in row. Known as *ESP 2.0*, this package recommends short-term, targeted investments in infrastructure (roads, water projects, housing) and regulatory reforms designed to kick-start our economy. This package is meant to be perceived as a potential guide for positioning Florida in the best posture to bounce back from this recession in a faster and more sustainable way. The proposals will be presented to legislators in the House and Senate in the weeks to come.

AIF would like to thank all members who attended. We would also like thank all sponsors who made this event possible.

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Pre-Legislative Briefing
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AIF's Vice-President of Governmental Affairs Jose L. Gonzalez welcomes AIF members.



Congressman Allen Boyd delivers the keynote address at the AIF Pre-Legislative Briefing. Congressman Boyd was one of only 11 democrats in the House of Representatives to vote against the federal economic stimulus plan.

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





Senate President Jeff Atwater focused on Florida's challenging budget conditions and what the Senate will be doing to help stimulate the economy.



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



Senate Democratic Leader Sen. Al Lawson outlines his caucus' positions on issues important to the business community.



Rep. Marcelo Llorente describes some of the budget challenges facing Florida.



Rep. Dave Murzin outlines some of the issues his Economic Development Council will be addressing this session. AIF will be presenting its *Economic Stimulus Package 2.0* to Rep. Murzin's Council later this month.

As Vice-Chair of the powerful Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy, Sen. Jeremy Ring is most interested in finding ways to grow Florida's Venture Economy.



House Democratic Leader Rep. Franklin Sands has been a friend to AIF and the business community. His open-door policy has increased access to members of the Democratic Caucus.



Business leaders gather in Tallahassee to discuss 2009 Session Priorities.



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