



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a group of prominent Jacksonville businessmen who believed that the well-to-do had a civic obligation to provide for the well-being of the less fortunate and who recognized the fact that the interests of the investor, management, employees, and the general public are mutual, founded the Duval County Employers' Association in 1920, for the purpose of defending and promoting the free enterprise system; and

WHEREAS, business owners and managers from other parts of the state soon began to join the fledgling association, whereupon the group changed its name to the Florida Employers' Association in 1923 in recognition of its changed demographics and at last, in 1930, changed its name one final time, incorporating as Associated Industries of Florida (AIF); and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, the association initiated innovative programs to: interview candidates for office and send them questionnaires asking their views on a wide range of issues, develop an agenda of legislative priorities for the legislative session, and take a proactive stance and develop solutions for issues impacting the business community and state; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, the association developed newsletters and a legislative directory to help get Florida employers more involved in the state's political process, urging them to take more interest in their government and, through personal contact, help their legislators understand the problems facing industry; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, the association broadened its base by becoming the state affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers and in 1953 moved its headquarters to Tallahassee to allow the association to better represent its members before state government; and

WHEREAS, the association formed the first PAC organized for Florida business interests in 1974, known today as the Associated Industries of Florida Political Action Committee, to support candidates deemed appreciative of the need for a vibrant and secure private enterprise system; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the association formed the first Political Operations department for a business association concentrating on political strategy and polling; and in 1994, the first full service political entity for business in the Sunshine State, known today as the AIF Political Council, which developed an intensive political profile, questionnaire and interview process for candidates that is still considered the gold standard; and

WHEREAS, the association also developed one of the state's first on-line legislative information systems, called Florida Business Network, in 1991, to provide electronic tracking and reporting on legislation and legislative activities; and went on to create the Florida Business United Network, in 1994, to electronically track and report on candidates, voting records, contributions, and other political information; and



WHEREAS, in 1999, they developed a revolutionary data gathering instrument dubbed Total View Equation, which is the mechanism for analyzing every Senate & House district in the state based on 160 different categories of information; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000s, the association has continued to forge new alliances and strengthen ties with business owners and with state, national, and international business groups while also enhancing its governmental affairs efforts by developing new industry councils to address the myriad issues affecting specific segments of the business community; and

WHEREAS, over the last ninety years, AIF has been actively involved in every major piece of business legislation offered to ensure that government officials understand the consequences of their actions on the ability to succeed in Florida and have earned the name “The Voice of Florida Business”; and

WHEREAS, the association and its members have also protected our way of life through their support of past war efforts, especially World War II, and relief efforts after natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the association and its members have also given to our state through their support and service on numerous community organizations and private associations, such as the American Red Cross, United Way, Foundation USA, Communities in Schools, the Florida Economics Club, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, and countless other local, state and national organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida recognize the

**90th ANNIVERSARY OF
ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA**

and congratulate them for their many years of service to the business community and their contributions to this state and to this country.