



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

May 31, 2012

Dear Associated Industries of Florida members:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every business owner in Florida for playing an important role in helping our economy prosper. As a former business owner, I know it is not an easy task of opening or expanding a business, and I applaud you for taking that risk. Florida's business community has successfully created jobs and thus, our unemployment rate has declined for ten consecutive months to its lowest point since January 2009. We could not have achieved this without you. Your ability to create jobs is even more impressive when you consider the fact that Florida lost jobs each of the four years before my inauguration.

Each day we are taking steps to shrink the size, scope and cost of government so that the private sector can thrive and grow jobs. We have paid down debt by nearly \$500 million over the last year, and our S&P AAA-rated credit outlook was improved at the same time the federal government was downgraded.

We all know how important it is to reside in a business-friendly climate that ensures companies can benefit from a lower cost of doing business and its employees can have a lower cost of living. Customers will not pay more for a product or service because it came from an area with higher taxes and burdensome regulations. That is why I have made it a priority to continue to identify and repeal more than 1,000 needless rules and regulations to ensure businesses are not faced with unnecessary red tape or expenses that hinder their success.

This year, the legislature successfully passed my Job Creation and Economic Growth Agenda which is a tremendous victory for Florida's businesses. In the last 17 months, we have increased the business tax exemption from \$5,000 to \$50,000, eliminating it for nearly two-thirds of the companies required to pay it.

Associated Industries of Florida members
May 31, 2012
Page Two

We have also provided tax relief for new and existing manufacturers to make Florida more attractive to quality manufacturing jobs and ensuring the industry can continue to be a vital component to our state's economic success.

Because of the steps we are taking, Florida is getting a lot of positive attention. CEO Magazine ranked Florida as the second best state for business and Florida's workforce and job training ranks number one in the country according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Chamber Foundation. I believe these outstanding achievements are a tremendous credit to our business community. I have let Texas Governor Rick Perry know Floridians are committed to making our great state the number one place in the world to build a business.

When I ran for Governor, I had never sought elected office before but I had a very specific focus to get Florida back to work. With your help, our great state has risen to the challenge over the last 17 months and is undoubtedly heading in the right direction.

I invite you to contact my office directly at 850-488-5603 to give me your ideas on how we can make Florida the best state for business. I would appreciate your help in the following areas:

1. Let every non-Florida business owner know what a great place Florida is to build a company.
2. Let me know of any company I should call to expand in Florida.
3. Let me know of any regulation we should review.
4. Let me know how I can improve state government.
5. Let me know how you think businesses can grow and prosper in Florida.

I believe elected officials have a moral responsibility to create an environment where businesses can flourish so Floridians can get jobs. I am working everyday to ensure that every person who wants a job can get one.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Governor