



DAILY BRIEF

From April 11, 2011

With a relatively quiet day in the Legislature, AIF hosted its Mid-Session Briefing today at the Governor's Club in Tallahassee. Over 80 attendees were on hand to hear from AIF about some of the issues most important to them. Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) & Representative Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow), along with members of AIF's lobby team, participated in the briefing to discuss their respective priorities and answer questions from Florida's top business leaders. In addition, be sure to check out *AIF's Mid-Session Report* to see the latest updates on our top priorities, as well as what we expect to happen in the remaining 24 days of this unprecedented session.

Also, don't forget to watch this week's episode of AIFTV, which features updates on a number of business issues including renewable energy, workers' compensation and pension reform.

Environmental

Today, the Senate Community Affairs Committee passed SB 1698 by Senator Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) with overwhelming support. This legislation creates a reasonable septic tank evaluation program and makes the program optional for local governments by allowing them to opt-out of a septic tank evaluation program, unless the counties have a first magnitude spring.

As adopted today, the bill sets a statewide uniform model standard should a local government wish to adopt an evaluation program. This is designed to protect businesses by promoting a consistent, predictable and stable business climate without having the potential for many different and potentially inconsistent local regulations.

AIF along with the Florida Home Builders Association, Florida Association of Realtors and the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association support SB 1698 as currently written. AIF believes that this proposed legislation will help to protect Florida's springs with reasonable regulations that do not unfairly target or place undue burdens on citizens and businesses by directing that a local evaluation program require only what is necessary to remediate a failing system.

SB 1698 will now proceed to its final stop in the Senate Budget Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS revising the legislation dealing with the septic tank inspection program passed last session. Further, AIF salutes Senator Dean for his efforts to bring all stakeholders together and produce a workable solution to the septic tank evaluation program.

SB 1528 Relating to Secondary Metals Recyclers by Senator Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) was unanimously approved by the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The Committee adopted a strike everything after the enacting clause during their meeting today. The proposed legislation, as amended, creates a new category in law for “restricted regulated materials property” and imposes restrictions on the purchase of such property. “Restricted regulated metals property” includes: manhole covers; electric light poles; guard rails; traffic signs; utility communication wire; funeral and historical markers; railroad equipment; metal marked by a governmental entity, utility company, cemetery or railroad; condensing or evaporator coils from air conditioning equipment; propane tanks; beer kegs; catalytic converters; metallic wire from which the insulation has been removed; certain brass or bronze fixtures; and shopping carts. These are the types of items normally involved in copper and metal theft.

Under the proposed legislation, recyclers may only purchase such property after obtaining “reasonable proof” that the seller owns the property or is authorized to sell the property on behalf of the owner. In addition, recyclers may not provide cash for purchases of restricted regulated metals property. It is the intent of this proposal to aide in deterring copper and metal theft.

In addition, SB 1528 also preempts local governments from regulations unless they have enacted an ordinance before March 1, 2011. Finally, the bill lowers the amount of time from 5 years to 2 years for secondary metal recyclers to retain records of transactions.

SB 1528 will now proceed to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will further help to deter secondary metal theft. In 2008, AIF started the Floridians for Copper & Metal Crime Prevention Coalition and created the current standards on secondary metal recycling in Florida.