



March 27, 2008

RE: Business United Against Guns at Work Legislation, No Compromise Reached

Members of the Florida Legislature:

From time to time you are forced to vote on issues that matter little* to your constituents but have far reaching impacts and consequences. At a time when Florida's economy is suffering and needs your undivided attention, we urge you to tell the rifle association that jobs, freedom, fewer lawsuits and less regulation are more important than their constant political threats.

There has been substantial discussion about this year's gun lobby bill to restrict property and management rights. Before you take a final vote on this fundamental issue, we want to be sure you know where we stand. This is particularly important due to some misstatements that the current bill is a "compromise," implying that the business community has worked on the bill and therefore now does not oppose its passage. Nothing could be further from the truth.



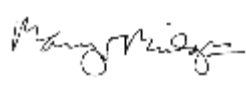
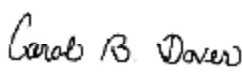
For three years we have maintained there can be no compromise when it comes to the right to control owned property. And there can be no compromise when it comes to protecting the health and safety of our employees and those who visit our property.

Clearly, we believe in both the 2nd Amendment and our Constitutional rights of private property. We believe both are sacred and both can exist with the other. In fact, we believe the 2nd Amendment was crafted to allow property owners to defend "with arms" their property.

Attempts to water down constitutional property rights and employer – employee contract negotiations in favor of gun owner rights can only be viewed as an attack on the business community and the jobs it creates and sustains. We have seen no egregious examples of gun rights being denied. No problem currently exists in Florida worthy of the proposed big government solution mandating less freedom, less property rights and more regulation.

We respectfully ask that you vote "no" on this bill and invite the rifle association to stand with those of us who want smaller government, less red tape, fewer lawsuits and more personal freedom. Please vote no on this over reaching legislation.

Sincerely,

			
Mark A. Wilson President/CEO Florida Chamber	Richard A. McAllister President/CEO Florida Retail Federation	Barney T. Bishop, III President/CEO AIF	Carol B. Dover President/CEO FRLA

***DATA**

In a recent poll, 80 percent of Florida voters stated they do not support guns at work legislation:

Under Florida law, business owners and citizens who own private property are allowed to decide what things are brought on their property, including guns. Should business owners be able to ask their employees to leave their guns at home and not bring them on company property?

Yes -- 80%

No -- 13%

Not sure -- 7%