



# ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*



## 2009 SESSION PRIORITIES



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## COUNCILS



The Councils of Associated Industries bring together unique sectors of the business community in order to develop and promote issues vital to those respective industries. The following pages represent the 2009 Legislative Agendas for each of the eight councils within AIF.

# Florida Maritime

**A**IF formed the Florida Maritime Council (FMC) in 2006 in response to the critical security and economic needs that Florida's port businesses continue to face. Initially, the Council members (representing more than 80 companies with operations covering the state) identified seaport security as Florida's most critical port issue. They have also revealed other serious problems that threaten their ability to compete with other port facilities located in other states, such as competing land uses and property taxes. The Council and its members will also play a vital role in maintaining and advancing Florida's economic position in the country, but its more short term problems must be addressed to ensure these businesses survive long enough to benefit from strategic and long-term financial planning.

Adoption and enforcement of fair and uniform seaport security measures is the most critical port issue in Florida. A few of the most time consuming and costly circumstances that port employers currently face include:

- Duplication of credentialing to meet separate federal and state requirements;
- Security weaknesses;
- Inconsistent application of minimum standards in the waiver process; and
- Arbitrary application of security requirements by local law enforcement.

Addressing these priorities, identified as economically onerous and operationally disruptive to maritime enterprises, is most essential to port businesses and has shaped the legislative agenda they will uniformly pursue in the coming session.



*Florida Maritime Council  
Lobbyist: Tamela Perdue*

## Council Priorities

**S**pecifically, the Council will advocate for the following important legislative changes for Florida's maritime industry:

- **Streamline security requirements to eliminate duplication in credentialing;**
- **Address inconsistency with Federal and State security standards and with the security waiver process;**
- **Identify and reduce regulatory impediments that stymie economic growth at Florida's Ports;**
- **Establish better lines of communication between regulators and port tenants, primarily by addition of port tenants and tenant employees to the Florida Seaport Security Advisory Council (FSSAC);**
- **Address arbitrary application of security requirements;**
- **Require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to brief port authority board members and local security taskforce co-chairs concerning results of unannounced seaport inspections ;**
- **Restrict encroachment on or near port property of alternative land uses;**
- **Support economic development funding for Florida's ports; and**
- **Support funding to deepen ports in Florida to take full advantage of the bigger ships that will use the newly expanded Panama Canal.**

## Council Position

The FMC supports efforts to establish better lines of communication between regulators and port tenants primarily focused through the Florida Seaport Security Advisory Council (FSSAC). The maritime industry has been unduly burdened with the expense and inconsistencies of seaport security regulations. A course correction is warranted if Florida is going to protect the profitability and ensure the survival of its ports.