

AIF 2012

Champions for Business



For 37 years, Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on every major business issue. The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not a legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. It is a valuable tool used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators running for re-election deserve our support. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story.

A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes risks for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate, and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has been good for business and who has been bad, we leave no stone unturned.

This year, AIF selected those legislators who we deem are strong and forceful advocates for the business community. In our collective wisdom, these 16 legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session. In addition, AIF is proud to present *Council Awards* to a group of policymakers who exhibited great leadership on behalf of AIF's Council system.

The *Champion for Business* award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

Champions for Business

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the leaders we turned to when we needed someone we could depend upon.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. This year Rep. Crisafulli is being recognized for his outstanding

leadership in the environmental policy arena. He sponsored and helped pass **HB 7003** which allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create a statewide Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) system. This will allow employers to be afforded a consistent, predictable outcome irrespective of their business' location in the state.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Ft. Myers) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Caldwell was the prime sponsor of **HB 7051**, a bill that

allows DEP to proceed with the implementation of sensible Numeric Nutrient Criteria rules. This legislation was critical to ensuring that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not impose burdensome rules that will add to the already increasing costs of doing business in Florida.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As Chairman of the powerful House State Affairs Com-

mittee, Rep. McKeel played a key role in the passage and ratification of legislation dealing with Numeric Nutrient Criteria rules. Legislative ratification of this Florida-based solution to the establishment of water quality criteria was incredibly important to the business community. His constant attention and leadership on this issue ensured the timely passage of this important rule.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) is receiving his third *Champion for Business Award*. This year, Rep. Patronis is being recognized for successfully

sponsoring and passing landmark environmental permitting legislation (**HB 503**). This bill provides a major step forward in streamlining permitting across state agencies. The bill will help accelerate the permit approval process and bring certainty to businesses dealing with multiple state agencies.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Precourt helped craft a dynamic economic development

package, which incorporated many of AIF's top economic development incentives for 2012. The legislation included tax breaks and incentives for important industries like manufacturing, agriculture and film. The incentives included in **HB 7087** will ensure that Florida remains a beacon for investment and economic activity.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. James Grant (R-Tampa) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. Rep. Grant led the charge to reform Florida's Communications

Services Tax, the third highest such tax on communications services in the country. Rep. Grant's sponsorship of **HB 809** ensures that Florida consumers (both residents and businesses) do not pay these excessive taxes on goods or services that are not "communications services" but are provided by communications service providers. The legislation also establishes a task force to review and recommend ways to further simplify this insidious tax and options for a hopeful reduction of the overall tax burden on Floridians.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Miami) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Fresen was the prime sponsor of legislation (**HB 487**) that

would enact comprehensive gaming reform in the state of Florida. Furthermore, the bill would allow for the construction of up to three Destination Resorts in Florida, which would create tens of thousands of jobs and bring billions in private capital investment to our state.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. A strong supporter of the business community, Rep.

Eisnaugle has championed economic development and free market principles since his arrival in the House. He is being recognized for his leadership in passing a proposed constitutional amendment (**HJR 1003**) which, if approved, would exempt thousands of small businesses from having to pay Tangible Personal Property (TPP) taxes. In addition, the amendment would allow local municipalities and counties the option of providing additional TPP exemptions by ordinance.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) is now a three-time *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. As the incoming Speaker of the House, Rep.

Weatherford has been the true definition of a champion for the business community. This year, Rep. Weatherford spearheaded efforts to mitigate the impending unemployment compensation tax increase on Florida businesses. Thanks to his leadership, the reforms included in **HB 7027** will save employers approximately \$50 per employee.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Throughout the 2012 Session, Rep. Boyd was the steady force

behind efforts to reform Florida's broken auto insurance system. **HB 119** was one of AIF's top priorities this year because of its ability to address the major cost drivers leading to Florida consumers and businesses paying almost 50 percent more for auto insurance than most other states in the country. The fraud-fighting provisions championed by Rep. Boyd will go a long way in helping promote a healthy auto insurance market in Florida.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Dan Davis (R-Jacksonville) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Davis sponsored **HB 4169**, a bill designed to repeal

the arcane regulatory practice of prohibiting workers' compensation carriers from carrying over "excess profits." This prohibition creates both accounting and cash flow problems for these companies. The elimination of this regulatory provision will alleviate these burdensome and confusing regulations, thus creating a more fair and predictable regulatory environment. The provisions of **HB 4169** eventually found their way onto a different piece of legislation, thanks to Rep. Davis' determination and constant attention.



2012 CFB Winner

Rep. Mack Bernard (D-West Palm Beach) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Since his arrival in the House of Representatives, Rep. Bernard

has been a strong supporter of Florida's business community. His strong desire to improve our economic climate has made him a valuable member of the House. This year, Rep. Bernard is being recognized for his role in passing important reforms to Florida's workers' compensation system. Rep. Bernard filed **HB 307**, a bill designed to ensure that all companies, regardless of their legal structure, are required to provide workers' compensation coverage to their employees. This important clarification has been a goal of AIF since the passage of the 2003 workers' compensation reforms because it also ensures that companies remain

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Champions for Business

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immune from civil actions for work injuries since there will be no doubt that workers' compensation coverage is required.



2012 CFB Winner

Sen. Elyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) is receiving her second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As a long-time opponent of the expansion of gaming in Florida,

Sen. Bogdanoff took on the difficult task of sponsoring legislation aimed at passing real, comprehensive gaming reform in our state. The legislation offered by Sen. Bogdanoff would also allow for the construction of up to three Destination Resorts in south Florida – a proposal that would lead to the creation of thousands of jobs and billions in private capital investment. Sen. Bogdanoff also played a major role this session in the debate to bring tax equity to our Mainstreet retailers who are struggling to compete with online retailers that currently do not charge sales taxes on purchases made over the Internet. Sen. Bogdanoff offered legislation that would restore fairness by requiring these virtual companies to remit sales taxes back to the state.



2012 CFB Winner

Sen. Chris Smith (D-Oakland Park) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Sen. Smith continues his long track record of working with the

business community to pass legislation that improves our state's business climate. This year Sen. Smith is being recognized for his work on two important business issues. First, he was the prime Senate sponsor of metal theft legislation (**SB 540**) which enacted critical provisions to help thwart costly crimes that are costing businesses in Florida hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. In addition, Sen. Smith played a key role in passage of legislation that will ensure that all companies, regardless of their legal structure, are required to provide workers' compensation coverage to their employees.



2012 CFB Winner

Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Destin) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As the incoming Senate President, Sen. Gaetz had many responsibilities to meet this year. First, he directly oversaw the Senate's redistricting effort – an incredibly

important task for the future of Florida. Yet he still had the time to put forth pro-business proposals and good public policy. Sen. Gaetz was instrumental this year in helping bring tax relief for employers in the form of lower unemployment compensation taxes. Sen. Gaetz is very interested in bringing much needed reforms to Florida's broken unemployment compensation system and AIF is committed to working with him to achieve this goal.



2012 CFB Winner

Sen. Jack Latvala (R-St. Petersburg) is a two-time *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. A strong defender of the business commu-

nity, Sen. Latvala was involved in a number of issues of vital importance to employers across our state. Sen. Latvala is being recognized this year for his steadfast support of free market principles in the health care arena. Akin to a game of "whack-a-mole," Sen. Latvala successfully defeated a number of attempts this session to pass mandatory contracting provisions between hospitals and health plan providers. In essence, these proposals would have obliterated the competitive process by which managed-care entities negotiate with their provider networks.

The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not a legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation.

2 0 1 2 Council Awards

Associated Industries of Florida is made up of a diverse group of businesses and associations that represent a wide array of economic sectors. AIF has organized a number of councils in order to best represent groups of employers that share a common subject area or interest. AIF's Council system has already produced excellent results, both legislatively and politically.

Environmental Sustainability



Rep. Clay Ford (R-Pensacola) and **Sen. Jim Norman** (R-Tampa) are both being recognized as *Legislators of the Year* by the AIF Environmental Sustainability Council for their work in passage of metal theft legislation. As the prime sponsors of **HB 885**



and **SB 1324**, these two legislators spearheaded efforts to address the costly practice of metal theft in our state. Unfortunately, unscrupulous individuals have realized that there is a lucrative market for metals in our state. This up-tick in metal theft is coming at a very high cost for business owners who are victims of these crimes. Both **HB 885** and **SB 1324** include important provisions to deter this practice.

Hospital Council



Rep. Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater) sponsored and helped pass an important piece of legislation that will ensure that there is greater public oversight in the sale or lease of a county district or municipal hospital. **HB 711** will make sure that the taxpayer and the community are

protected by ensuring that full and fair market value is received in exchange for the sale and/or lease of public hospitals. Rep. Hooper has been a vocal advocate of greater transparency for these highly complex and important transactions. For these reasons, the AIF Council for Community Hospitals is proud to recognize Rep. Ed Hooper as its *Legislator of the Year*.

Development and Infrastructure Council



Rep. Frank Artiles (R-Miami) sponsored a key piece of legislation for Florida's construction and development industries.

Rep. Artiles filed **HB 1013** in response to a recent 5th District Court of Appeal's decision which would have exposed builders in Florida to new and unwarranted causes of action. This opinion would have made builders responsible for off-site improvements that had nothing to do with warranties associated with the construction of a home. Thanks to Rep. Artiles' leadership and his sponsorship of this legislation, Florida's construction industry will be protected from frivolous lawsuits. For these reasons, the AIF Florida Development and Infrastructure Council is proud to designate Rep. Frank Artiles as its *Legislator of the Year*.

Financial Services Council



Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) is being recognized as AIF's Financial Services Council House *Legislator of the Year* for his

courageous efforts on bringing attention to Florida's precarious property insurance system. This year, Rep. Hager sponsored legislation (**HB 803**) that aimed at "right sizing" Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund). Currently, Florida's Cat Fund is over-exposed; and if a storm or series of storms were to hit Florida, there exists a real potential for the Cat Fund to default on its responsibilities. While politically unpopular, Rep. Hager's dedication to addressing this crisis shows his commitment to the future of Florida.



Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City) was designated this year as the prime negotiator and sponsor of legislation (**SB 1860**) to reform Florida's

broken auto insurance system. Sen. Negron's experience dealing with difficult and complex issues once again came in handy as legislators worked with Governor Scott to pass meaningful reforms that addressed the rampant fraud and cost drivers in the system. Throughout the weeks of debate, public testimony and negotiations, Sen. Negron remained fair and deliberate, always keeping the best interests of Floridians and employers in mind. For these reasons, AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to call Sen. Joe Negron its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.

PAST *Champions for Business*

The Champion for Business award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

2011 Champions for Business

Rep. Chris Dorworth – *Property Tax Reduction*

Rep. Doug Holder – *Unemployment Compensation*

Rep. Dorothy Hukill – *Insurance Reform*

Rep. Marlene O'Toole – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Jimmy Patronis – *Environmental Permitting*

Rep. Will Weatherford – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Trudi Williams – *Water Policy*

Rep. John Wood – *Property Insurance Reform*

Rep. Rich Workman – *Pension Reform*

Rep. Dana Young – *Port Security*

Sen. JD Alexander – *Immigration Reform*

Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff – *Judgment of Interest*

Sen. Anitere Flores – *Immigration Reform*

Sen. Jack Latvala – *Port Security*

Sen. Joe Negron – *Medicaid Reform*

Sen. Garrett Richter – *Tort Reform*

Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Single Sales Factor*

Sen. David Simmons – *Class Size*

2010 Champions for Business

Speaker Larry Cretul – *Unemployment Compensation*

Rep. Dean Cannon – *Medicaid Reform*

Rep. Steve Crisafulli – *Economic Development/ Aerospace*

Rep. Brad Drake – *Commercial Insurance*

Rep. Adam Hasner – *Unemployment Compensation*

Rep. Alan Hays – *Workers' Compensation*

Rep. Mike Horner – *Parental Waivers*

Rep. Ralph Poppell – *Dynamic Scoring*

Rep. Perry Thurston – *International Commercial Arbitration*

Rep. Will Weatherford – *Economic Development/Job Creation*

President Jeff Atwater – *Tort Reform*

Sen. Rudy Garcia – *Unemployment Compensation*

Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Economic Development*

Sen. Garrett Richter – *Property Insurance*

Sen. John Thrasher – *Education Reform*

Sen. Thad Altman – *Aerospace Industry Relief*

2009 Champions for Business

Rep. Dean Cannon – *Energy Legislation*

Rep. Anitere Flores – *Workers' Compensation*

Rep. Adam Hasner – *Elections*

Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera – *Property Taxes*

Rep. Jimmy Patronis – *Medicaid Reform*

Sen. Garrett Richter – *Workers' Compensation*

Sen. Mike Fasano – *Economic Development*

Sen. Chris Smith – *Public Notices*

Sen. Don Gaetz – *Low Income Pool (LIP) Transparency*

2008 Champions for Business

Rep. Thad Altman – *Space Legislation*

Rep. Anitere Flores – *Education & Workforce Development*

Rep. Peter Nehr – *Property Tax Reform*

Rep. Ray Sansom – *Economic Development*

Rep. Baxter Troutman – *Metal Theft Legislation*

Sen. Mike Bennett – *Administrative Procedures Act*

Sen. Mike Fasano – *Transportation*

Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Taxes*

Sen. Bill Posey – *Space Legislation*

Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Economic Development*

2007 Champions for Business

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*

Rep. Charlie Dean – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Alan Hays – *Property Insurance*

Rep. Rich Glorioso – *Transportation*

2006 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Support of Business Agenda*

Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*

Senate President Tom Lee – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*

Rep. Marty Bowen – *Agriculture*

Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*

Rep. Fred Brummer – *Tax Reform*

Rep. Mike Davis – *Affordable Housing*

Rep. Adam Hasner – *Energy Legislation*

Rep. Matt Meadows – *Tax Incentives for Manufacturing*

Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*

Rep. Marco Rubio – *Private Property Rights*

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*

Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Relief for Businesses*

Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*

Sen. Jim King – *Economic Development*

Sen. Dan Webster – *Tort Reform*

2005 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Tort Reform*

Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Frank Attkisson – *Private Sector Protection*

Rep. Holly Benson – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*

Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Fred Brummer – *Repeal of Intangible Tax*

Rep. Rene Garcia – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*

Rep. Joe Pickens – *Asbestos and Silica Reform Act*

Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*

Rep. Dwight Stansel – *Tort Reform*

Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*

Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Reform*

Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*

2004 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*

Rep. Kim Berfield – *Workers' Compensation Reform*

Rep. Mike Davis – *Growth Management*

Rep. Jeff Kottkamp – *Premises Liability Legislation*

Rep. Bruce Kyle – *Court Funding*

Rep. Joe Negron – *Court Funding*

Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*

Sen. JD Alexander – *Workers' Compensation Reform*

Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*

Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*

Sen. Rod Smith – *Court Funding*

2003 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*

Rep. Dudley Goodlette – *Workers' Compensation*

Rep. Connie Mack – *Tort Reform*