



2015

Champions for Business



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, the Governor and these nine 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.

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



Governor Rick Scott is receiving his third AIF Champion for Business Award and is only the second Governor to receive the

award in its thirteen year history. Associated Industries of Florida salutes Governor Scott for his steadfast leadership and staunch pro-business agenda which has bolstered economic growth in the state of Florida. This legislative session Scott signed **HB 33A**, a broad-based tax package, into law. **HB 33A** will bring relief to many Floridians; from Florida's farmers, to Florida's students, and to any Floridian who owns a cell phone. Governor Scott's legislative priority of reducing taxes on Florida's families by over \$400 million will promote and solidify our state's standing as one of the best to live and conduct business. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Senate President Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando) is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries

of Florida salutes President Gardiner for his stalwart leadership in fostering a better business climate in Florida as well as his work to pass meaningful health care reform legislation. Because of President Gardiner's courage to face the debate, the Florida Senate developed market based solutions for employer's health care costs that passed through the Florida Senate with bipartisan support. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



House Speaker Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) is receiving his fifth AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries

of Florida applauds Speaker Crisafulli for his critical leadership in fostering a better business climate in Florida as well for his effort in advocating for comprehensive water policy in the state of Florida. The Department of Environmental Protection projects there will be a water shortage of 1.3 billion gallons of water per day by 2030, which makes efforts like this critical to Florida's future. With Speaker Crisafulli's efforts, a science-based approach to addressing current, and future statewide water needs passed the Florida House. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Sen. Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville) is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida

salutes Senator Bean for crafting the Florida Health Insurance Affordability Exchange Act and leading its bipartisan passage through the Florida Senate. This important legislation would provide a private-sector, free-market solution to address Florida's health care marketplace by insuring more Floridians and alleviating the costs of uncompensated care which burden businesses and families throughout the state. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."

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



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.



Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) is receiving her Second AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of

Florida salutes Senator Hukill for her leadership in reducing taxes on Florida's families and businesses by over \$400 million. **HB 33A**, a broad-based tax package designed to bring relief to Florida's families and businesses, will promote and solidify our state's standing as one of the best states to live and conduct business. Senator Hukill worked very closely with the bill sponsor, Rep. Matt Gaetz, during this year's Special Session to pass a tax package that would not only fit within the state's budget but also give back to Florida's families and businesses. **HB 33A** was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott on 6/16/2015 and took effect on 7/1/2015. We proudly recognize her as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) is receiving his fifth AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida

salutes Senator Richter for championing the Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources legislation aimed at growing Florida's on-shore energy industry while providing safeguards for the environment. This legislation sought to revise the Oil and Gas Program under the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Mining and Minerals Regulation Program in the Division of Water

Resource Management (Division) to establish safer and more effective practices for oil and gas drilling, production, and exploration activities within Florida. AIF supported the need to maintain appropriate permitting laws to protect the environment, to enhance efficiency between industry and the state, and to ensure clear communications of appropriate standards are clearly communicated. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh Acres) is receiving his second AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of

Florida salutes Rep. Caldwell for his leadership in sponsoring the Water Resources legislation. Caldwell successfully sponsored **HB 7003**, which aims to create an interagency agreement to develop and implement a uniform water management system regarding, water supply planning, consumptive water use permitting, and resource protection programs. Rep. Caldwell's legislation puts forth broad-based, comprehensive water policy for the state of Florida that takes into account current and future water needs. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) is receiving his second AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of

Florida salutes Rep. Gaetz for his leadership in reducing taxes on Florida's families. His sponsorship and steadfast work on this legislation will promote and solidify our state's standing as one of the best states to live and conduct business. Rep. Gaetz's successful work on **HB 33A** will provide Floridian families with over \$400 million in tax reductions. **HB 33A** was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott on 6/16/2015 and took effect on 7/1/2015. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."



Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers) is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida

salutes Rep. Rodrigues for successfully championing the Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources legislation aimed at growing Florida's on-shore energy industry while providing safeguards for the environment. This legislation sought to revise the Oil and Gas Program under the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Mining and Minerals Regulation Program in the Division of Water Resource Management (Division) to establish safer and more effective practices for oil and gas drilling, production, and exploration activities within Florida. We proudly recognize him as a 2015 "Champion for Business."

Past AIF Champions for Business Winners

2014 Champions for Business

Gov. Rick Scott – Motor Vehicle Rollback
Speaker Will Weatherford – In-State Tuition
Sen. Joe Negron – Motor Vehicle Rollback
Sen. Jack Latvala – In-State Tuition
Sen. Jeremy Ring – IT Governance
Sen. Bill Montford – GMO “Protecting Florida Agriculture”
Rep. Seth McKeel – IT Governance
Rep. Jeanette Nunez – In-State Tuition
Rep. Richard Corcoran – STEP
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – STEP

2013 Champions for Business

Gov. Rick Scott – Tax Reform
Sen. Garrett Richter – Expert Testimony
Sen. Joe Negron – Health Care
Sen. John Legg – Education
Sen. Alan Hays – Workers Compensation
Sen. Chris Smith – Environmental Regulation
Sen. Bill Galvano – Manufacturing Development
Rep. Jim Boyd – Manufacturing Development
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – Insurance Tax Credit
Rep. Matt Gaetz – Legal Reform
Rep. Matt Hudson – Workers Compensation
Rep. Larry Metz – Expert Testimony
Rep. Jimmy Patronis – Environmental Regulation
Rep. Steve Precourt – Employment Benefits
Rep. Jake Raburn – Environmental Regulation

2012 Champions for Business

Rep. Steve Crisafulli – Environmental Policy
Rep. Matt Caldwell – Environmental Policy
Rep. Seth McKeel – Environmental Policy
Rep. Jimmy Patronis – Environmental Permitting
Rep. Steve Precourt – Economic Development
Rep. James Grant – Communication Services Tax (CST) Reduction
Rep. Erik Fresen – Gaming Reform
Rep. Eric Eisnagle – Property Tax
Rep. Will Weatherford – Unemployment Tax Reform
Rep. Dan Davis – Workers Compensation
Rep. Mack Bernard – Workers Compensation
Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff – Gaming Reform
Sen. Chris Smith – Metal Theft Legislation/Workers Compensation
Sen. Don Gaetz – Tax Reform
Sen. Jack Latvala – Health Care



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 Comp
Rep. Dean Cannon – Medicaid Reform
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – Economic Development/
Aerospace
Rep. Brad Drake – Commercial Insurance
Rep. Adam Hasner – Unemployment Comp
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 Comp
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

Gov. 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’ Comp
Rep. Connie Mack – Tort Reform



Vote for Business

Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) and our members are proud to recognize the members of the Florida legislature who have achieved a 100% AIF voting record for the 2015 Session. This represents a commitment to sound policy that supports Florida's employers and job creators. Not only does this score encompass votes to pass legislation beneficial to businesses, it includes votes to defeat policies that would have a detrimental impact on businesses and their employees.

**Senate President
Andy Gardiner**
(R-Orlando)

Joseph Abruzzo
(D-Wellington)

Rob Bradley
(R-Orange Park)

Charles Dean
(R-Inverness)

John Legg
(R-Lutz)

Jeremy Ring
(D-Margate)

Jose Diaz
(R-Miami)

Shawn Harrison
(R-Tampa)

Ray Pilon
(R-Sarasota)

Holly Raschein
(R-Key Largo)

Dana Young
(R-Tampa)



We applaud these 11 legislators who have helped make Florida the best place to do business.