



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

**V**otes provide tangible evidence of whether a legislator supports the ability of Florida companies to prosper and 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 deserve our support. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story.

A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes a stand 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.

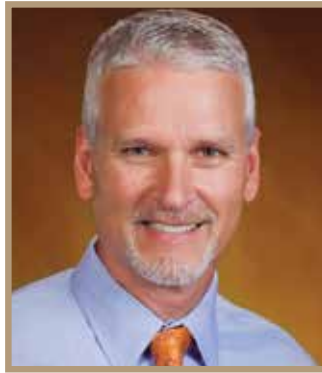
The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has supported business and who hasn't, we leave no stone unturned.

In our collective wisdom, these six legislators and the Governor 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.

Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment,



**Governor Rick Scott** is receiving his fourth *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Governor Scott for his committed work on maintaining Florida's economic incentive programs such as Enterprise Florida Inc. and VISIT FLORIDA. During this year's regular session, the threat to defund these two agencies was imminent. As Enterprise Florida, Inc. and VISIT FLORIDA contribute immensely to growing our economy, it is imperative that they continue to cultivate a competitive and innovative business environment that maximizes revenues and further creates jobs in Florida. In the final days of a special session, Governor Scott stood firm to guarantee that these two economy-boosting agencies remain intact. We proudly recognize Governor Scott as a 2017 "Champion for Business."



**Senator Keith Perry** (R-Gainesville) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida salutes Senator Perry for ensuring the protection of personal identification and private information of a deceased or injured worker from public record when employees file a workers' compensation claim. Protecting the private information of Florida's employees is one step in the right direction to fixing the workers' compensation system in Florida. HB 1107 passed both legislative chambers and is waiting to be signed into law by Governor Scott. We proudly recognize Senator Perry as a 2017 "Champion for Business."



**Senator Kelli Stargel** (R-Lakeland) is receiving her first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida commends Senator Stargel for her advocacy in reducing taxes for Florida's families and

businesses. While working with the sponsor in the House, Senator Stargel was able to secure \$180 million in tax cuts for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Each year the constituents of our state rely on these tax cuts for relief, whether it be in the form of incrementally decreasing the business rent tax or a ten-day back to school tax holiday for clothing, footwear, school supplies and computers. HB 7109 was signed into law by Governor Scott and will take effect on 7/1/2017. We proudly recognize Senator Stargel as a 2017 "Champion for Business."



**Representative Ben Albritton** (R-Bartow) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida hails Representative Albritton for securing the protection of personal identification and private information of a deceased or injured worker from public record when employees file a workers' compensation claim. Protecting the private information of Florida's employees is one step in the right direction to fixing the workers' compensation system in Florida. This legislation passed both legislative chambers and is waiting to be signed into law by Governor Scott. We proudly recognize Representative Albritton as a 2017 "Champion for Business."

*or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.*



**Representative Jim Boyd** (R-Bradenton) is receiving his fourth *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida salutes Representative Boyd for his leadership in reducing taxes for Florida's families and businesses. His sponsorship and steadfast work on this legislation will promote and solidify our state's standing as one of the best states in which to live and conduct business. Boyd's successful work on this year's tax package, HB 7109, will amount to \$180 million in cuts for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Governor Scott signed HB 7109 into law and the bill will take effect on 7/1/2017. We proudly recognize Representative Boyd as a 2017 "Champion for Business".



**Representative Jay Fant** (R-Jacksonville) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida commends Representative Fant for his efforts in finding a solution to Florida's current unconstitutional workers' compensation system. Although he did not sponsor the full workers' compensation legislation, Representative Fant fought hard for his amendment to the full House bill (HB 7085) that would move Florida to a claimant paid system. This amendment would have put Florida in line with 32 other states and had the united support of the business community. We proudly recognize Representative Fant as a 2017 "Champion for Business."



**Representative Danny Burgess** (R-Zephyrhills) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida recognizes Representative Burgess for his tireless and unwavering work in the House to address the issues within Florida's workers' compensation system that have deemed the system unconstitutional. Representative Burgess offered legislation that focused on stabilizing the continuous increase in the cost of workers' compensation on Florida employers, ensuring employees get the care they need to return to work, and creating a self-executing system fair to all. We proudly recognize Representative Burgess as a 2017 "Champion for Business."

*Throughout the 2017 Session, these were the leaders we turned to when the business community needed someone we could depend upon.*

# Past AIF Champions for Business Winners

## 2016 Champions for Business

Sen. Jack Latvala – *Economic Development*  
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – *Tax Cuts*  
Sen. Charlie Dean – *Water Policy*  
Sen. Aaron Bean – *Tort*  
Sen. Garrett Richter – *Oil & Gas Regulation*  
Rep. Jim Boyd – *Economic Development*  
Rep. Matt Gaetz – *Tax Cuts*  
Rep. Matt Caldwell – *Water Policy*  
Rep. Frank Artiles – *Information Technology*  
Rep. Ray Rodrigues – *Oil & Gas Regulation*

## 2015 Champions for Business

Gov. Rick Scott – *Tax Cuts*  
Senate President Andy Gardiner – *Health Care*  
Sen. Garrett Richter – *Oil & Gas Regulation*  
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – *Tax Cuts*  
Sen. Aaron Bean – *Health Care*  
Speaker Steve Crisafulli – *Water Policy*  
Rep. Ray Rodrigues – *Oil & Gas Regulation*  
Rep. Matt Caldwell – *Water Policy*  
Rep. Matt Gaetz – *Tax Cuts*

## 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*  
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – *AIF Manufacturing, Aerospace and Defense Council Champion for*

## *Business Award*

Sen. Wilton Simpson – *AIF Environmental & Agricultural Sustainability Council Champion for Business Award*  
Rep. MaryLynn Magar – *AIF Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense Council Champion for Business Award*  
Rep. Matt Caldwell – *AIF Environmental & Agricultural Sustainability Council Champion for Business Award*  
Rep. Kevin Rader – *AIF Financial Services Council Champion for Business Award*  
Rep. Bill Hager – *AIF Financial Services Council Champion for Business Award*

## 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. Jim Boyd – *Automobile Insurance*  
Rep. Dan Davis – *Workers Compensation*  
Rep. Mack Bernard – *Workers Compensation*  
Sen. Elyn Bogdanoff – *Gaming Reform*  
Sen. Chris Smith – *Metal Theft Legislation/Workers Compensation*  
Sen. Don Gaetz – *Tax Reform*  
Sen. Jack Latvala – *Health Care*  
Rep. Clay Ford – *Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Jim Norman – *Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Ed Hooper – *Hospital Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Frank Artiles – *Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Bill Hager – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Joe Negron – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

## 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. Elyn 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*  
Rep. Joe Abruzzo – *Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Ken Roberson – *Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Brad Drake – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Gary Aubuchon – *Florida Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Florida Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

## 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*  
Senate 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*  
Sen. Durell Peaden – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

Rep. Bill Proctor – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Lake Ray – *Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. John Legg – *Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Nancy Detert – *Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Marlene O’Toole – *Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Dorothy Hukill – *Florida Development & Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Lee Constantine – *Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Trudi Williams – *Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

#### **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*  
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Bryan Nelson – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Pat Patterson – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Dave Aronberg – *Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Charles Van Zant – *Florida Energy Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Seth McKeel – *Florida Energy Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Erik Fresen – *Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

#### **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*  
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Al Lawson – *Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink – *Financial Services Council Champion for Business*  
Rep. Paige Kreegel – *Florida Energy Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Kevin Ambler – *Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

#### **2007 Champions for Business**

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*  
Rep. Charlie Dean – *Tort Reform*  
Rep. Alan Hays – *Property Insurance*  
Rep. Rich Glorioso – *Transportation*  
Rep. Aaron Bean – *Government Outsourcing Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Rep. Will Weatherford – *Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*  
Sen. Al Lawson – *Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award*

#### **2006 Champions for Business**

Governor Jeb Bush – *Support of Business Agenda*  
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Join & 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*