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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol, PL 01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: A Solution to Florida's Energy Needs

Dear Governor Crist,

Thank you for meeting again with the Florida Chamber of Commerce to discuss the opportunities and challenges we face as Florida's economy continues to transition. As you already recognize, balancing affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy is an essential component in the continued success of citizens and businesses alike. Florida's population is estimated to increase by ten million people by 2030, and if energy production continues at today's rate, there will not be enough for 2030 or beyond.

At our last meeting we discussed the need for a comprehensive approach to Florida's energy challenges, specifically the need for research and development of alternative and renewable energy technologies. Your dedication to this issue is clear – from the Environmental Summit in July to this week's announcement of a waste energy plant in Tallahassee. We applaud your leadership on energy and your efforts to find innovative ways to meet Florida's future energy challenges. Now more than ever, Florida needs your leadership to establish a comprehensive, balanced approach to Florida's energy future.

To achieve our shared goals, we recommend the following components:

- **Research & Development Dedicated to Alternative and Renewable Energy** – Because current technology on alternative and renewable energy is 5 - 10 years behind our need for reduced emissions and a diverse fuel supply, the Florida Chamber is calling for investing \$1 billion over the next 20 years into research and development in alternative and renewable energy technologies. This investment benefits the state two-fold – helping Florida meet growing demand for affordable and environmentally responsible energy and helping our state become the Silicon Valley of energy technology world-wide.
- **Conservation** – Even scientists agree, the cleanest and cheapest kilowatt is the one we do not use. We need an organized and dedicated effort to educate consumers and businesses on the importance of conservation and efficiency and its ultimate effect on reducing energy demand and protecting our unique quality of life.
- **Education and Job Creation** – To support the growth of the alternative energy industry in Florida, our education system must produce graduate and post-graduate level researchers and scientists to meet the needs of clean technology employers. We should work to create at least 10,000 high skill, high wage, and clean technology jobs as part of a statewide strategy to further diversify our economy. As we have discussed previously, we believe alternative and renewable energy should be a targeted industry for economic development.

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- **Emissions Reduction** – An incentive-based emissions reductions program will be necessary to assist in achieving emission reduction targets.
- **Zero Carbon Energy Production** – We must identify all opportunities at the federal level to streamline and expedite nuclear plant siting and construction in order to provide more zero carbon emissions options in supplying a greater portion of Florida's growing energy needs.

We stand with you on the need for balanced energy solutions and will use our resources to fight for research and development, incentive based programs, and Florida leading the nation in building the next generation of nuclear power plants. I look forward to talking with you more at our next meeting about the exciting opportunities we see for meeting Florida's future energy needs and to your personal leadership on this important issue.

My Best,



Mark Wilson
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Ken Pruitt, Senate President
The Honorable Marco Rubio, Speaker of the House
Florida Chamber Board of Directors