



All About Florida

RODNEY J. LONG
PRESIDENT
ALACHUA

ILENE LIEBERMAN
PRESIDENT ELECT
BROWARD

DOUG SMITH
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MARTIN

BILL WILLIAMS
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
GULF

SUSAN LATVALA
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
PINELLAS

CHRISTOPHER L. HOLLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 10, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: HB 1565 Relating to Rulemaking

Dear Governor Crist,

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is writing to express our support for HB 1565 relating to rulemaking. This bill provides that state agency rules which increase regulatory costs for Florida's businesses and taxpayers beyond certain thresholds must be ratified by the legislature.

FAC supports this bill because it will protect counties from unfunded mandates by state agencies without legislative oversight. There is a disturbing trend of state agencies exceeding their statutory authority via administrative rules, which can add significantly to the cost of local taxpayers if left unchecked. Those costs are borne by all of Florida's citizens.

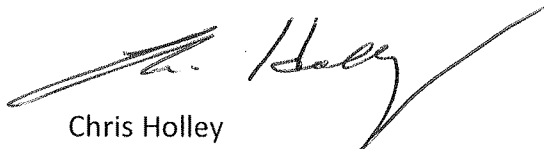
FAC presented a Local Savings Act proposal during the 2010 Legislative Session that focused on finding ways to save tax dollars and HB 1565 will help counties do just that. This good bill provides more checks and balances, so that increased costs to the regulated community and Florida's taxpayers can be better managed in this time of economic crisis.

Some stakeholders groups, including state agencies and environmental groups, are now apparently concerned that this bill will have negative environmental consequences. FAC supports environmental protection, and counties play an important role in protecting Florida's environment. In fact many counties go above and beyond state regulations to ensure that Florida's natural resources are protected. However, counties have a dual role of both regulator and regulated entity, and environmental protection must be carefully balanced with the economic impact of new regulatory requirements. That is what HB 1565 seeks to achieve.



FAC respectfully asks that you allow this legislation to become law so that Florida's citizens, local governments, and business community can be protected from increased regulatory costs at a time when they can least afford it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Holley", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Holley
Executive Director

cc: John Mitchell, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget
FAC Executive Committee