



FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC

CURRENTS

2010 Legislative Communications Series

Why Economic Development Matters in the Next Session

February 24, 2010

Dear Florida Economic Development Stakeholders:

As Legislators in the 2010 Session formulate solutions to our state's economic challenges, we believe that one clear goal will lead the way out of this deep recession – job creation. Economic development professionals across Florida work every day to promote quality job growth, along with increased private investment and economic diversification.

This letter series is our effort, as your professionals in the job-creation trenches, to bring to you concise and timely information that we are certain is part of the solution. We ask that you consider carefully the information in these letters, as our recommendations can be a roadmap to economic prosperity.

While economic development can be defined in many ways, one theme unites them – the improvement of the economic well-being of a community. The Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) represents hundreds of professionals that are dedicated to the economic improvement of their communities. Whether from large urban areas to rural communities, from the Panhandle to the Keys, we speak with a unified voice for economic development.

FEDC looks forward to working with you to ensure that the economic well-being of every community in Florida is improved. Therefore, our top priorities for the upcoming legislative session include supporting funding for successful development tools such as the Qualified Targeted Industry program, Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund and Economic Gardening. We also support continued funding of one of Florida's longest standing and most successful programs, the Economic Development Transportation Fund; and workforce training programs that allow our residents to gain up-to-date skills. All of these programs give Florida a competitive edge as companies become increasingly mobile.

We recognize the power of our collective voice and work closely with Workforce Florida, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), the state's higher education leaders and, of course, business leaders. Our overall goal is to work with you to meet challenges head-on, to set the stage for defining our future and to help realize Florida's full economic recovery.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to providing you the facts you need to make decisions that will lead to economic recovery. Please e-mail aevancho@fedc.net or call (850) 201-3332 if you have any questions.

Look for the next installment of FEDC *Currents*: “A Call to Action – Economic Development Priorities”

Sincerely,

Tammie Nemecek
Chairman

Deborah Wilkinson
Chairman-Elect
Legislative Affairs Chairman

Amy Evancho
President & CEO