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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GOVERNOR CRIST APPOINTS GEORGE LEMIEUX TO US SENATE

Florida Chamber Congratulates LeMieux; Commends Selection for Florida's Future Economy

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 28, 2009) – Moments ago, Governor Charlie Crist announced the appointment of George LeMieux to the U.S. Senate, ending weeks of speculation following the early resignation of Senator Mel Martinez. Lemieux, who previously served as Chief of Staff to Governor Crist as well as Deputy Attorney General, is the current Chairman of Gunster Yoakley, a full service law firm based in Fort Lauderdale. He earned his J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center and graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University.

George LeMieux has consistently proven to be an intelligent, effective and well-respected policy advisor throughout his tenure in public office, and the Florida Chamber is confident that he will continue to recognize the importance of Florida's employers when he goes to Washington.

Statement from Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce

"On behalf of employers throughout Florida, we look forward to working with Senator-designate LeMieux, and we are confident that he will continue to show the same commitment to the issues that matter most to the hardworking business owners of Florida," said Mark Wilson, President and CEO of the Florida Chamber.

"I have had the privilege to frequently work with George LeMieux during his tenure in this administration, on issues ranging from education reform to transportation funding as well as improving our state's legal climate. I have been consistently impressed with his command of the issues, respect for the process and commitment to the employers that drive Florida's economy."

"During a time when critical employer issues such as card check, health care reform and international trade are before the U.S. Senate, this selection is crucial to Florida's future economic recovery. We appreciate Governor Crist's decision to pass on applications from trial lawyers and other agendas which would be detrimental to future job creation during this important time."

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Established in 1916 as Florida's first statewide business advocacy organization, the Florida Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest federation of employers, chambers of commerce and associations, representing more than 139,000 employers. The Chamber works within all branches of government to affect those changes set forth in the annual Florida Business Agenda, and which are seen as critical to the continued improvement of Florida's business environment.

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