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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Florida Chamber Clarifies Unemployment Compensation Tax Debate
Federal Funds Come With Costly Mandate; Not a Solution for Long-Term

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 19, 2009) – The Florida Chamber of Commerce released the following statement today regarding the unemployment compensation trust fund tax increase:

**Statement from David Daniel, Vice President for Government Affairs,
Florida Chamber of Commerce:**

“Unfortunately, those who suggest Florida should have accepted federal economic aid for unemployment compensation are ignoring a critical element of this discussion: the requirements that would have been attached to those funds. To be clear, accepting these federal funds would have increased the current deficit, as it included a mandate to allow more individuals into the unemployment compensation benefits program that don’t currently qualify.

“This short-term influx of federal money may sound appealing on a press release, but the long-term problem would have been worsened due to the costly strings attached.

“The Florida Chamber of Commerce thanks Governor Crist, Senate President Atwater and Speaker Cretel for focusing long-term solutions for our economic recovery and transition.

Florida’s employers would much rather lower unemployment compensation costs the right way – by getting Floridians back to work.”

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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. Visit www.FloridaChamber.com.