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December 11, 2017

The Florida Constitution Revision Commission
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida Chamber Opposes Proposal 63

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to Florida as a Commissioner of the 2018 Constitution Revision Commission. Your role in refining and debating our state's central document has the potential to set Florida on a path of continued prosperity.

Article VII of the Florida Constitution contains several provisions and exemptions for ad valorem taxation and protections from certain types of taxes, such as the personal income tax and estate taxes. In the past, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has been supportive of several of these tax exemptions, which provide savings to Florida families and job creators.

The Florida Chamber has long advocated for consistency and certainty in Florida's Constitution and tax system. Proposal 63 requires that all future tax exemptions be reviewed by the electorate after eight years, and calls for their immediate repeal if the exemption is not retained. Unfortunately, this would result in immediate tax increases, and the commiserate economic uncertainty, for certain taxpayers. The proposal fails to create a similar process for tax increases, allowing them to be in effect in perpetuity.

Specifically, the Florida Chamber of Commerce opposes Proposal 63 because it:

- Places a greater burden on tax decreases than tax increases;
- Results in immediate tax increases if a tax exemption fails to be retained;
- Creates economic uncertainty; and
- Places an additional burden on voters and taxpayers in the form of a potentially much longer ballot.

The Florida Chamber urges you to vote against this proposal, but looks forward to working with the Constitution Revision Commission to help write Florida's next chapter of collaboration and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank C. Walker III".

Frank C. Walker, III
Vice President of Government Affairs

CC: Bob Grammig, Chair, Florida Chamber of Commerce
Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce

Securing Florida's Future

David Hart, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber of Commerce
Carlos Beruff, Chairman, Florida Constitution Revision Commission