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June 7, 2017

President Joe Negron  
305 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL  
32399-1100

Speaker Richard Corcoran  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL  
32399-1300

**RE: Florida Chamber Special Session 2017-A Recommendations  
When the 2017 Florida Chamber Business Agenda Wins, Florida Wins**

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker,

Welcome back to Tallahassee for Special Session 2017-A. On behalf of the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the millions of jobs we represent, thank you for agreeing to come back to finish work on important business priorities concerning funding for tourism marketing and targeted economic development efforts. As you know, Florida created fewer jobs last year than it did the year before. The signal you are sending by reconvening for economic development is important.

The Florida Chamber has always strived to provide clarity on our statewide competitiveness agenda and the policies our members support. As such, the Florida Chamber remains supportive of the following policies and will consider the success of the special session based upon:

- Full funding of at least \$76 million for VISIT FLORIDA's proven, high-yield tourism marketing efforts with necessary protections for taxpayers,
- Base operational funding necessary for Enterprise Florida, Inc. to continue their work supporting job creation and economic growth and diversification, and
- At least \$85 million in targeted economic development funding investments.

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund outlined in legislation from both the House and Senate promotes public infrastructure and individual job training. As the Florida Chamber Economic Development Task Force reported earlier this year, infrastructure investment is essential to Florida's competitiveness and economic growth, and as I often say, talent is quickly becoming the new economic development tool of choice.

To be sure, employers are facing challenges on many fronts. We have received many calls from local businesses, chambers and job creators around the state urging action on additional business priorities such

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as workers' compensation reform, assignment of benefits reform to lower the homeowner's fraud tax driving up property insurance rates, further cuts to the Florida-only business rent tax and others. As always, we stand ready to work with you on these important policies to enhance our competitiveness and secure Florida's future.

The Florida Chamber applauds your willingness to return to Tallahassee and want to see legislation addressing these business priorities enacted into law as quickly as possible. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Wilson, President & CEO

CC: Members of the Florida Senate  
Members of the Florida House of Representatives  
David Hart, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Frank Walker, Vice President, Governmental Affairs, Florida Chamber of Commerce