

January 16, 2012

Commissioner Adam Putnam
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Energy Office
Tallahassee, Florida
32399

Dear Commissioner Putnam,

First, please let me thank you for your leadership in Florida.

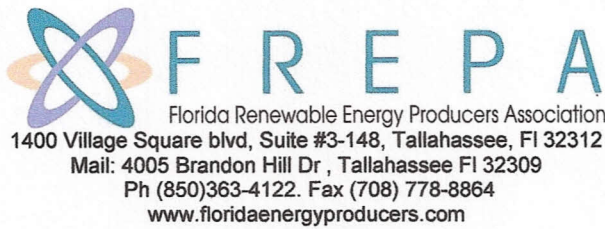
In Particular, thanks for your leadership in energy policy. We find your approach to underline your experience in legislative bodies. Because I have been through a few legislative sessions myself and have a good grasp of the realities of the process, we want to provide a key proposal that FREPA ask that you consider this session. It allows for a way forward that is consistent with our current environment.

In a legislative session that will be dominated by redistricting, budget talks and how Florida will deal with issues of taxes and revenues, we acknowledge that our issue is not the priority we would like. Moreover, we believe that given the constant turnover in the legislative leadership body and the reality of what are immediate interests, we suggest that this year the legislature could do energy policy a big favor by crafting an **Energy and Technology Blue Ribbon Panel** to provide comprehensive energy policy recommendations for implementation in 2013. We believe that we should also focus on how the policy helps the budding cleantech manufacturing community and Florida entrepreneurs in the cleantech business space. If that approach is not taken, we feel that what we will have is a tremendous amount of bills that are no more than statements without any comprehensive focus and thus be more confusing to potential supporters than what is merited.

The **Florida Energy and Technology Blue Ribbon Panel** should consist of representatives from:

The Florida Forest Association
Manufactures of Florida
Florida Petroleum and Marketers Association
Farm Bureau
Florida Renewable Energy Producers Association
Bank of America
Florida Universities Energy Consortium
The Florida Economic Development Council
Enterprise Florida
Florida Solar Energy center
Florida Biofuels Association

Florida's Voice for Renewable Energy



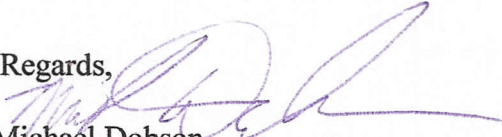
Florida Engineering Society
Investor owned utilities
Municipal utilities
League of Cities
Association of Counties
Florida Retail Federation
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Transportation
Florida Wildlife Federation
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

We believe that the special panel should operate with full transparency and hold public noticed meetings scheduled by the energy office and that no per diem is available for participants. We suggest that the group provide its recommendations to the legislature by November 2012 to begin workshops for the proposal. The process must be one whereby there is trust that key constituent groups and stakeholders have input. It is my view that using this approach, we can gain a great level of agreement from key stakeholders to finally pass a comprehensive energy bill.

I hope that you consider our suggestion as a way forward. Based on past experience on this issue in Florida, we firmly feel that this proposal is worthy of your thoughts and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to call me to discuss these ideas further at (850) 363-4122

Regards,


Michael Dobson
FREPA
President