



## **For Immediate Release**

*July 8, 2010*

*Contact: Michael Dobson (850) 222-0441 or (850) 443-3477*

### **FREPA renews call for renewable energy standards to be added to the call for July special session**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** -- The Florida Renewable Energy Producers Association (FREPA) today commended Gov. Charlie Crist for calling a special session to ban oil drilling in waters near the Florida coast and urged him to add renewable energy standards to the call.

“Congratulations to Gov. Crist for his decision to move ahead with a special session to ban oil drilling near the Florida coast,” said FREPA President/CEO Michael Dobson. “The massive oil spill fouling the waters, beaches and marshes along the Gulf Coast emphasizes the importance of action now. The renewable energy community urges legislators to put the ban proposed by the Governor on the November ballot.”

“Gov. Crist and lawmakers should seize the moment by placing Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) and Public Benefit Funds policy on the November ballot,” Dobson said. “In their failure to address the RPS issue before now, lawmakers has reduced Florida’s potential to be a leader in the renewable energy movement, costing the state jobs and investments that have gone elsewhere. Lawmakers need to act now to ensure that Florida utilities rely on renewable energy sources for a certain percentage of energy produced in the state.”

Crist announced Thursday that he was calling a special session to place a constitutional amendment ban drilling for oil from three to 12 miles off the Florida coast on the November ballot.

FREPA is holding its third annual "Sunshine State Renewable Energy Expo and Symposium" to be held at the Orlando, Rosen Plaza Hotel next Wednesday and Thursday and will discuss plan to put RPS and Public Benefits Funds amendment on the 2012 ballot, if lawmakers fail to do so at the special session.

The Association and its leaders have been the architects of an effort to place the RPS and Public Benefits Fund policy on the ballot for voters after legislators failed to act over the last three years. These policies have been credited with jump starting and building a sustainable renewable energy industry in other states.



T

The Expo will feature breakout sessions and forums on renewable energy topics, ending with a declaration of a clear policy agenda that Florida leaders need to adopt to create green jobs reduced our dependence on fossil fuels.

"With that, Florida would lead the way in establishing a clean energy policy for the generations that will come after us, using Florida natural resources, Dobson said.

Florida Renewable Energy Producers Association (FREPA) is dedicated to advocating on behalf of all current and potential renewable energy producers with interest in project development in Florida. FREPA's main goal is to be focused on advocating for needed incentives, a favorable regulatory environment, project funding and programs that promote research and spur growth in the use of renewable energy sources in Florida.

Please visit [www.floridaenergyproducers.com](http://www.floridaenergyproducers.com) and [www.sunshinestateenergyexpo.com](http://www.sunshinestateenergyexpo.com) for more information.

###