



August 27, 2019

Dear Florida Economic Development Stakeholders:

The 2020 Legislative Session offers us another exciting opportunity to work together with our legislators and partners to further strengthen Florida's competitiveness in a global economy and engender greater prosperity for all Floridians.

The Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit association whose 300+ members engage business, education, and government leaders in economic development initiatives that improve local communities and elevate Florida's global competitiveness. We invest in the professional development of our members, advocate for sound economic development policy and programs, and recognize excellence among economic development, workforce, and community development leaders and organizations. Our members hail from every corner of the state and represent an extremely diverse collection of urban, suburban, and rural communities.

FEDC looks forward to working with you on the local, regional and statewide levels to ensure that Floridians have access to high quality, well-paying jobs that will help their families prosper and their communities thrive. Hence, our top priorities for the upcoming legislative session include:

- **Reauthorize F.S. 288.106 Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program, which is due to sunset on June 30, 2020.**
- **Establish a Project Development Boot Camp to include EFI, DEO and CareerSource Florida staff and FEDC Members.**
- **Update F.S. 288.018 Rural Regional Development Grant per the Florida Rural Economic Development Association priorities.**
- **Update F.S. 220.196 Research and Development Tax Credit to increase the cap from \$9 million to \$50 million with up to \$10 million reserved for Clean Technology.**
- **Enhance the competitiveness of Florida as a business location by phasing out business rent tax, reducing the communications service tax and reducing corporate income tax.**

In addition to these specific priorities, FEDC supports:

- **Enterprise Florida, the state's primary economic development organization. This includes operational support and funding for business development, marketing the State of Florida as a business destination and international trade activities.**
- **Programs through CareerSource Florida, Florida SBDC Network, GrowFL, FloridaMakes and state academic institutions that connect existing and aspiring small businesses with the critical intelligence and talent they need to innovate, grow and thrive.**

We recognize the power of our collective voices and our network of partners and stakeholders to ensure that Florida adopts and implements sound policies and programs that foster smart economic growth and broad-based prosperity. Our goal is to work with you to address challenges that pose a threat to our competitiveness, identify opportunities that we can develop and promote, and further diversify our state's economy to make us more resilient in times of economic uncertainty.

Thank you for your partnership and support. Please contact Beth Cicchetti, CEcD, at bkirkland@fedconline.org or 850.212.1056 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly

Kelly Smallridge
Chair, FEDC

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Beth

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