

Legislative Washington, D.C. Visit September 1999

Senate President Toni Jennings
Senator Locke Burt
Senator Ron Klein
Senator Jack Latvala
Senator Ronald Silver

House Speaker John Thrasher
Representative Johnnie Byrd
Representative Jerry Maygarden
Representative Alex Villalobos

Summary Document *revised, October 15, 1999*

*Prepared by: Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations
October 1999*

Summary: Legislative Washington, D.C. Visit

Introduction. Senate President Toni Jennings, House Speaker John Thrasher and a small delegation of legislators went to Washington, D.C., September 29 - 30, 1999, to meet with the Florida Congressional Delegation and other members of Congress. The visit served two purposes. The first was to build on federal-state coordination and communications begun at the first two Federal-State Summits held in the Spring of 1998 and 1999 in Tallahassee. The second was to influence federal policies on timely issues to benefit the state of Florida. The visit was timed to coincide with the culmination of the Congressional budget cycle.

Issues selected for **priority focus** during the visit were: **natural disaster insurance** legislation; reauthorization of the **Older Americans Act**; **health and human services** funding issues, including **TANF** funds; **transportation** funding, including reauthorization of the **Federal Aviation Act** (FAA); **Everglades restoration**; **illegal drug trafficking**, **money laundering** and **U.S. Customs resources**; and **immigration issues**. The trip was coordinated on behalf of the Senate President and House Speaker by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. The Florida Washington Office and Congressman Clay Shaw, delegation chair, assisted with the plans.

Appointments were made relative to the above issues with key members taking part in decision making processes in Congress.

Florida legislative members traveling were: **Senate President Toni Jennings, House Speaker John Thrasher, Senator Locke Burt, Representative Johnnie Byrd, Senator Ron Klein, Senator Jack Latvala, Representative Jerry Maygarden, Senator Ronald Silver, and Representative Alex Villalobos.**

September 29, 1999

Staff Issue Briefing. The visit opened the morning of September 29 with a briefing at the Florida House for the legislative delegation by staff of the State of Florida Washington Office (FWO). Director Nina Oviedo and FWO staff Clarke Cooper, Karen Hogan, and Frank Bonner, as well as Doug Callaway from the Department of Transportation, provided updates on legislative developments regarding the issues targeted for discussion during the visit. They provided information on the Congressional members with whom legislators would meet, particularly those from other states.

Budget Process Briefing. The entire legislative delegation then attended a briefing by **Bill Hoagland**, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senate Budget Committee, on the federal budget cycle and appropriations process. Mr. Hoagland provided up to the minute background on developments in the current Congressional budget process, explaining how the legislative delegation's issues fit in and likely future directions.

Florida Congressional Delegation meeting.

The delegation meeting was attended by all nine legislators. Congressional members in attendance were: Florida Delegation Chair **Congressman Clay Shaw**, Delegation Vice Chair **Congressman Alcee Hastings**, **Congressman Allen Boyd**, **Congresswoman Corrine Brown**, **Congressman Charles Canady**, **Congressman Jim Davis**, **Congressman Mark Foley**, **Congresswoman Tillie Fowler**, **Congressman Porter Goss**, **Congressman Bill McCollum**, **Congresswoman Carrie Meek**, **Congressman John Mica**, **Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**, **Congressman Clifford Stearns**, **Congresswoman Karen Thurman**, and **Congressman Robert Wexler**.

Congressman Shaw welcomed the Florida legislators. Senate President Jennings commented that this visit -- a first for the Florida Legislature -- was to follow up on the communications begun at the Summits. She stated the importance to Florida of each of the issues on the agenda. Speaker Thrasher concurred and stated that he was especially interested in transportation infrastructure.

Following the opening remarks by Congressman Shaw, President Jennings, and Speaker Thrasher, one state and one federal member addressed each of the identified issues as follows.

Older Americans Act: Representative Maygarden and Congresswoman Meek. Both agreed that the key for Florida is to switch the priority factors in the funding formula as part of the reauthorization. For Florida and other growth states to receive equitable amounts of funding under the act, proportionality must take precedence over the hold harmless

provisions, instead of the reverse as in the current law. Ms. Meek pointed out that this is an ongoing "big fight" with northern and other states which would lose funds under such a change.

Illegal drugs and money laundering: Congressman Mica and Senator Burt. Mr. Mica pointed out that for interdiction and international efforts, Florida's federal funds have been gutted in recent years, and are just now recovering to reach 1992 levels. In contrast, there is more federal money available for drug treatment programs. However, state funds for treatment have been cut.

Mr. Mica wants to consider block grant funding for drug treatment programs and he welcomes state level input on the concept. Senator Burt mentioned some of the findings from the hearings conducted this summer around the state by the Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Task Force. He presented six proposals for the federal government to assist the state to address these challenges. Congresswoman Fowler pointed out that it was announced on Sept. 28 that eight new P3 aircraft would be stationed in Jacksonville; this will help with interdiction efforts there. Ms. Fowler also mentioned that she has been working to secure a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation, and accompanying increased resources, for Jacksonville.

Natural disaster insurance legislation: Senator Klein and Congressman McCollum. Senator Klein emphasized the importance of coalition building with other states to pass legislation to allow the national pooling of risk to make private insurance markets more solvent in the face of large scale natural

catastrophes; most states are at risk for some type of natural disaster. He pointed out the usefulness of state legislatures and Governors to assist in Congressional level coalition building efforts. Mr. McCollum noted that H.R. 21, which would establish a federal program to provide reinsurance for state disaster insurance programs and make home owners' insurance more affordable, is scheduled to be marked up by the full House Banking Committee on October 19. He requested a letter from the Florida Legislature to Speaker Hastert asking that the bill be considered by the full House after it passes out of committee.

Health and human services funding/TANF: Senator Silver and Congressman Shaw. Senator Silver pointed out that Florida has been more successful than most states in reducing its welfare roles in a responsible manner. By targeting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reserve funds, Congress is effectively penalizing those states that have been successful. He asked Congress to honor the commitment to the states represented by the welfare agreement that created the TANF block grant. Congressman Shaw agreed that the federal government should not penalize success. He pointed out that states are now down to the "hard core unemployed" cases on the welfare roles, and will have to spend more funds per capita on their transition to the workplace. Mr. Shaw mentioned that he spoke to Speaker Hastert the previous evening about how to put \$100 million back that had come out of the TANF budget. He mentioned the usefulness of legislatures and Governors weighing in on the issue.

Transportation: Speaker Thrasher and Congresswoman Brown. Both agreed that transportation funding and its wise use is a key to Florida's economic development. Speaker Thrasher asked the Congress to enact the FY 2000 transportation appropriation in a timely manner, and to enact the FAA reauthorization with "firewalls" to protect airport and airways trust fund revenues. Ms. Brown mentioned that AIR-21 aims to do that. Ms. Brown also pointed out the successes for Florida of last year's passage of TEA-21, which brought an additional \$1.2 billion in transportation funding to the state. She asked what are the state's plans for utilizing those funds?

Everglades restoration: Senator Latvala and Congressman Goss. Senator Latvala reiterated the state's commitment to be a full partner in the restoration effort. He stated that the Legislature is currently identifying potential continual funding sources. Congressman Goss delivered some good news: the President will sign the Energy and Water bill, which provides a majority of funding for Everglades restoration; \$20 out of \$21 million requested for the Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration was funded, as was \$28 million out of \$39 million requested for Kissimmee River Restoration. In the Interior Appropriations bill, another Everglades funding source, Mr. Goss mentioned that there is still water assurances language being worked out between the state and federal agencies. The state restrictive language in the Interior Appropriations bill that would make state funding conditional on guaranteed water deliveries is still being discussed. He mentioned that there currently is no funding for the Interagency Task Force.

Discussion: Mr. Goss mentioned that Speaker Hastert is committed to progress on the international intelligence front in drug interdiction efforts. Ms. Meek stated that more community-based drug programs are needed, especially for small communities. She pointed out the need for evaluation mechanisms to make sure that treatment programs are effective and treatment dollars are spent efficiently. Speaker Thrasher acknowledged Ms. Meek's role in setting up Florida's Office of Drug Control while she was in the Florida Legislature. He pointed out that office has an evaluation system, that the state is using to increase the availability of more effective treatment programs.

Immigration: Representative Villalobos and Congressman McCollum. Representative Villalobos emphasized the importance to Florida of keeping State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funds at current levels as the House version of the appropriations bill would do, and not cutting the levels by nearly 80%, as the Senate version would. Mr. McCollum agreed that the SCAAP formula is skewed to begin with, with California receiving the lion share of funds, at Florida's expense. Congresswoman Thurman pointed out that the Democrat side of the aisle is also working hard on the SCAAP issue.

Observation: Congressman Shaw offered the following general observation. Times and money are very tight now on Capitol Hill. The politics of getting around the budget caps are very difficult. The increase in total discretionary appropriations this year is less than the Cost of Living increase. Saving Social Security is a priority for both parties, as is debt relief. "Increased spending is no longer in vogue." There will be very tough debates

with the President in coming weeks. Mr. Shaw warned legislators not to count on increased spending on any of these programs in this climate.

Ms. Meek closed by saying that she very much enjoyed the Federal/State Summit in Tallahassee this year. She felt it had been very well done.

Small group and individual meetings with members of Congress were held immediately after lunch as follows:

- ◆ Representatives Villalobos and Byrd discussed **immigration** issues with **Congressman Lamar Smith, R-TX** and **Congressman Charles Canady**. Issues covered included SCAAP funding, alien workers, and clarification of the law regarding consideration of asylum.
- ◆ Speaker Thrasher and Senators Klein and Burt discussed **customs inspector** and **resource shortages** with **Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-AZ**. Mr. Kolbe, Chairman of the House Treasury, Postal Appropriations subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over Customs, stated that they are aware of the need for additional Customs personnel in different areas of the country. He mentioned that he would be visiting the Port of Miami, a high need area for additional agents, in early December.
- ◆ President Jennings, Senator Silver and Representative Maygarden discussed TANF funding with Ms. Adrienne Baker of **Senator Arlen Specter's** staff, R-PA (Mr. Specter was unable to leave the Senate floor).

Meeting with Senators Graham and Mack.

The entire legislative delegation reconvened in **Senator Bob Graham's** office to discuss **general issues** with Florida's Senators. **Senator Connie Mack**, who was chairing a Joint Economic Committee hearing, joined the meeting after it was underway. President Jennings and Speaker Thrasher opened with brief summaries of meetings and issues discussed so far. The state legislators gave overviews of what had been learned through the meetings on the various issues. On health and human services issues, Senator Graham responded that he was working on reversing a threatened cut to Social Service Block Grants. He indicated that a letter from the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) was forthcoming on this issue. On natural disasters, Mr. Graham mentioned the need for more shelters, and discussed ways to address this need in the school construction that is currently being pursued. On immigration, Mr. Graham pointed out that the SCAAP formula is driven by state spending, which means it rewards high cost programs. He stated it was a "perverse formula" for this reason. On Customs issues, Senator Burt stated that Congressman Kolbe will be coming to Miami in December and wants a summary of the testimony collected by the state's Task Force on money laundering over the summer. Mr. Graham agreed that the OAA reauthorization is a high priority for Florida, and that we are "caught in a formula fight" with the approximately one-third of states that would lose out from a change.

Upon joining the group, Senator Mack addressed natural disaster insurance, stating that Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) has introduced a bill on the topic. Like Representative Foley's bill (and unlike H.R.

21) it leans toward relying on tax incentives to allow insurance companies to build up their own catastrophic re-insurance reserves over a time period. He expressed reservations about the approach in S.1361, concerned that it may be an expansion of the federal government's role. Mr. Mack stated that the alternative approach may be a positive direction for the Senate, and may serve to allow the issue to go to conference after a version passes both houses. On Everglades, Mr. Graham stated that we are now in the best position in many years to do something for Everglades restoration. He pointed out the need to identify state funding sources before implementation of the Restudy is started. Mr. Graham congratulated the Legislature on building federal-state trust on this issue; this year was a considerable improvement over last year. The visits by the legislators to Washington on this issue last summer were helpful; Mr. Graham encourages more such visits on the Everglades and other single issues as appropriate.

Meeting with House Appropriations Chairman Congressman Bill Young.

Introductory remarks and updates were presented by President Jennings, Speaker Thrasher and the legislators on each of the state priority issues. **Congressman Young** responded on several issues. On Everglades restoration, Mr. Young stated that money was not the problem; what is needed is one central office or manager in charge of the effort to establish accountability. It was suggested that the Governor should be in charge of that effort. On drug issues, Mr. Young suggested members may wish to visit the Criminal Justice Institute at St. Petersburg Junior College, to observe its law enforcement training facility. The facility is used by several federal agencies.

Mr. Young stated that the issue of TANF funding had been resolved in states' favor; the offset would be found by changing the way Earned Income Tax Credit payments are made. Mr. Young raised concern about the Senate's reduction in Social Services Block Grant funding and stated that this may be a conference issue.

Small group and individual meetings again were then held with members of Congress as follows:

- ◆ Senator Silver and Representative Byrd met with **Congressman Michael Bilirakis** on **health and human services funding** issues. Specifically, TANF funds, Social Services Block Grant reduction, and prescription drug benefits were discussed.
- ◆ Senator Burt and Representative Villalobos met with **Congressman Rick Lazio**, R-NY, on **natural disaster insurance** legislation. The discussion included the status of H.R. 21, sponsored by Mr. Lazio and co-sponsored by Mr. McCollum, and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 1361, co-sponsored by Senator Graham. The alternative measure offered by **Congressman Mark Foley** was also discussed. Unlike the other two proposals, Mr. Foley's bill allows insurance companies to create a reserve fund through tax incentives.
- ◆ Speaker Thrasher and Senator Klein met with **Senator Mike DeWine**, R-OH, on **Older Americans Act** reauthorization. The discussion included recognition that Mr. DeWine's proposal includes a formula advantageous to Florida and obstacles to its passage.

September 30, 1999

Press Roundtable. The agenda for September 30 opened with a Florida press roundtable at the State of Florida Washington Office. The legislators made themselves available to members of the press to answer any questions and provide summaries of issues being discussed.

Small group and individual meetings with Members of Congress and agency officials were then held throughout the morning as follows:

- ◆ Speaker Thrasher, Senator Burt and Representative Maygarden met with **Congressman Bill McCollum** on **natural disaster insurance** legislation. They discussed the importance of building coalitions with other states to support H.R. 21 or other disaster insurance reform proposals. They also discussed the upcoming appointment with **Congressman Jim Leach**.
- ◆ Senators Klein and Silver, and Representative Byrd met with **Congressman Dan Miller** on **appropriations** issues. The meeting covered TANF, which Mr. Miller reported as being taken care of, Older Americans Act reauthorization and formula, and the year 2000 Census.
- ◆ Senators Burt and Silver and Representative Byrd met with representatives of the **National Guard, U.S. Treasury, IRS, U.S. Customs** and the **Office of National Drug Control Policy** to discuss how state and federal

efforts could best be coordinated to address the State's drug and money laundering situation.

The National Guard needs \$180 million to support the 4,000 troops deployed in the states. The current version of the budget is \$10 million dollars less than needed. This higher level of funding, plus more, will be needed to target additional specific activities. The National Guard has 19 counter drug locations in the state.

The IRS indicated that a change in the use of Form 8300, Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business, may occur. Since this is tax return information, it is confidential and may not be used in any manner not authorized by the Internal Revenue Code. Support in the Ways and Means Committee will be important if a change is to be achieved. Follow up discussions with Congresswoman Karen Thurman and Congressman Clay Shaw would be helpful.

The Customs budget has been signed by the President. There are approximately 900 uniform and 362 investigative U.S. Customs personnel in Florida. There are fewer customs officials currently in Florida than at the end of the 1980s, which has led to a perception that U.S. Customs has been concentrating its effort elsewhere. However, in the 1998 budget 114 new positions were authorized, with 45 of those positions identified for Florida. U.S. Customs has a five year plan for Florida, which Senator Burt requested.

By federal law, existing HIDTAs must be funded at their 1999 level. Therefore,

additional expenditures are necessary if new HIDTAs are to be created. Although members of the congressional delegation indicated that there was wide spread support for creating the new HIDTA in Jacksonville, additional revenues apparently will be needed. Although the Florida Congressional delegation is supportive, this is a federal executive branch decision.

- ◆ Senator Klein met with David Bohley, Banking Counsel to **Senator Kit Bond**, R-MO, on **natural disaster insurance** legislation. They discussed the importance to all states of a national pooling of risk.
- ◆ Speaker Thrasher and Representative Villalobos met briefly with **Congressman Allen Boyd** on **appropriations** issues.
- ◆ Senator Klein met with Esther Olavarria, Immigration Counsel to **Senator Edward Kennedy**, D-MA, on **immigration** issues. The discussion included SCAAP funding, the question of restoration to immigrants of benefits that were taken away in 1996 welfare reform legislation, and INS restructuring.
- ◆ Speaker Thrasher and Representative Villalobos met with **Congressman Jim Leach**, R-IO, on **natural disaster insurance** legislation. Congressman Leach indicated that the markup on H.R. 21 would be October 19th. He stated that the biggest issue is the perceived liability to the federal government, but that the federal government ultimately would end up paying much of the costs regardless. They also discussed money laundering proposals before Mr. Leach's committee.

- ◆ Speaker Thrasher and Representative Villalobos met with **Congressman John Mica** on transportation funding issues. The discussion included a variety of Florida-related **transportation** issues, including the proposed light rail system in the Orlando/Orange County area, the status of the federal aviation bill, and the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) in Dade County. Mr. Mica has secured federal funding for the Orlando light rail project in the FY 2000 DOT Appropriations bill and urges the state to support the project, which the City of Orlando has endorsed. He expressed optimism that despite a recent set-back at the local Orange County level, a shorter version of this commuter rail system would be built. Mr. Mica indicated that AIR-21, the House-passed aviation bill, would accomplish the state's objectives, as articulated by Speaker Thrasher, but that there is a problem with moving similar legislation in the Senate. It was noted that the MIC Project was recently awarded a \$435 million loan from the U.S. DOT.

- ◆ Senator Klein met with **Congressman Dave Weldon** on **commercial space** issues. Mr. Weldon remarked that the Congressional delegation meeting was very productive, and recommended having legislators take part in delegation meetings more often. They then discussed a proposed Kennedy Space Center research facility. Mr. Weldon would like to see the state fund the \$30 million proposal in order to position Florida and its university system to be a major player in the space station research program. Mr. Weldon is concerned about Florida's competitiveness for the Venture Star effort and asked the Legislature to take action this and next

session to improve competitiveness. He supports the closing fund concept and urges funding it. He also asked the state to strengthen Spaceport Florida.

The visit then closed with a lunch de-briefing. Senator Burt and Senator Silver were present, along with staff of the Florida Washington Office and the LCIR.

October 7, 1999

A follow-up **de-briefing meeting** with press availability was held in **Tallahassee** on October 7. All legislators who traveled to Washington were present, except Senator Latvala. Some Senate Committee Chairs who did not travel were also in attendance. Michael Harrington of Congressman Shaw's office, and staff of the Florida Washington Office participated via telephone. Senator Klein, President Jennings, and Speaker Thrasher opened the meeting with introductory remarks and summaries of the visit.

Members reported on each individual issue discussed in Washington, in the following format: state message brought to Washington regarding the issue, information learned during the visit, and follow up. A general discussion of strengths and weaknesses of the meetings, and suggestions for future federal-state communications activities, closed the meeting.

Overall, members concurred that the trip to Washington was very productive. Senate President Jennings and Speaker Thrasher, among other members, stated their hope that future Senate Presidents and House Speakers would continue the precedent of regular biennial Summits and periodic trips to Washington, D.C. Senator Silver stated that

the participation of the Senate President and the House Speaker greatly contributed to the success of the trip; the top level support added credibility to the messages and assisted in gaining access to Congressional members. Senator Burt made four recommendations for future federal-state coordination:

- Keep the agenda short and focused;
- Work with Congressional staff from Florida members' offices to schedule meetings with key Committee Chairs and to arrange that Florida members accompany legislators to those meetings, as was done on the agenda for this visit;
- Send small groups on individual issues, as appropriate; and
- Identify clear channels of federal-state communication on substantive issues, particularly regarding coordination between legislative leadership and the Florida Washington Office.

Senate President Jennings and House Speaker Thrasher thanked the Florida Washington Office, Congressman Clay Shaw's office, and Senator Klein and Representative Spratt, as co-chairs of the LCIR, for their work in setting up the trip. The meeting was adjourned.

Follow-up Actions

Possible action items resulting from the meetings on the various issues are as follows:

Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation.

1. Upon passage of H.R. 21, the Homeowners' Insurance Availability Act

of 1999, out of the House Banking Committee, send a letter from Speaker and President to Speaker Hastert urging consideration of bill by full House of Representatives (President and Speaker's Offices, LCIR).

2. Determine whether Mr. Foley's bill has been formally scored (LCIR).
3. Consider sending letter from President and Speaker to Senators Graham and Mack expressing support for H.R. 21 and S. 1361. (Suggested by Congressman McCollum's Chief of Staff / President and Speaker, LCIR).
4. Work with NCSL and National Governors Association to build coalitions on this issue with other states at risk for disasters: California for earthquakes, Texas for hurricanes, and Illinois for potential earthquakes (Governor, LCIR, relevant committees).
5. Ask Mr. McCollum's staff for list of most frequently asked questions on H.R. 21 (Clarke Cooper, LCIR).

Immigration Issues.

1. Consider sending letter from President and Speaker to Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations Conferees on SCAAP funding (President and Speaker's offices, LCIR).
2. Work with Congressmen Canady, McCollum, and Thurman's offices to follow developments on SCAAP distribution formula (House Criminal Justice Committee, LCIR).

3. Follow up with Senator Graham's office on legislation regarding H2A Guest Worker program (Representative Byrd, LCIR).

Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Customs Issues.

1. Congressman Kolbe will visit Florida in December. Provide him with summary of Task Force testimony and findings. Coordinate with Governor's Office of Drug Control to work with Mr. Kolbe's office to help plan his agenda in Florida (Money Laundering Task Force staff).
2. Work with James McDonough's Office of Drug Control at state level to get Jacksonville HIDTA (Task Force staff).
3. Consider organizing legislative visit to Criminal Justice Institute Law Enforcement Training Facility at St. Petersburg Junior College, as suggested by Congressman Young (Task Force members and staff).
4. Follow up discussions with Congresswoman Karen Thurman and Congressman Clay Shaw on IRS form 8300 (Task Force staff).
5. Follow up on Senator Burt's request for U.S. Customs' five year plan for Florida (Task Force staff).

Transportation Funding.

1. Provide Congresswoman Corrine Brown with explanation of Florida's plans to spend additional \$1.2 billion in TEA-21 funds (Doug Callaway).

Everglades Restoration.

1. Explore Congressman Young's suggestion that a single or dual entity (federal/state) should be put in charge of restoration effort (Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight and other relevant committees).
2. Continue efforts to identify funding source(s) for state cost share of restoration (Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight and other relevant committees).

Older Americans Act reauthorization.

1. Monitor progress of legislation and state funding allocations in Title III (Florida Washington Office, LCIR).
2. Work with Senators Mack and Graham to maintain Senate's position regarding OAA reauthorization (Florida Washington Office, LCIR).

Health and Human Services funding issues.

1. Because Senator Graham's amendment to fund the Social Service Block Grant at FY 99 levels passed by voice vote on the Senate floor, no follow up appears to be needed on this issue. According to the Florida Washington Office, the Legislators' visit and talking about this issue with key members helped bring this positive resolution. Continue to monitor this issue to maintain full funding in FY 2000 (Florida Washington Office, LCIR, relevant committees).
2. Continue to monitor status of TANF funding and transferability, and other social services funding (Florida Washington Office, LCIR, relevant committees).

3. Monitor impacts of 1997 federal Balanced Budget Act on the state, especially the health care system (Representative Maygarden, LCIR, relevant committees).

Commercial Space issues (from meeting with Congressman Weldon).

1. Look into funding \$30 million proposal to build Kennedy Space Center space station research center as University of Florida facility (Senator Klein, Commerce Committee).
2. Look into funding closing fund to prepare to be competitive for Venture Star (Senator Klein, Commerce Committee).
3. Consider strengthening Spaceport Florida (Senator Klein, Commerce Committee).

Other/General

1. Stay active on Outer Continental Shelf drilling issues/coordinate with Florida Washington Office (suggested by Representative Maygarden).
2. Plan limited single issue legislative visits to Washington, as events dictate (suggested by Senator Graham during meeting, and reiterated by Senator Burt at de-briefing).
3. Continue to institutionalize various channels of legislative/congressional coordination and communications (LCIR, all).