

February 6, 2006

Jeb Bush  
Governor  
PL 05 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Tom Lee  
Senate President  
The Capitol, Room 409 C  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Allan Bense  
Speaker of the House  
The Capitol, Room 420 C  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Jeb, President Tom, and Speaker Allan:

For the past several years, The Florida Council of 100 has been intensely interested in tort reform, a critical business climate issue impacting not only Florida's business community, but her citizens as well. While it is a contentious issue with many points of view, we applaud each of you for your steadfast commitment for improvement. However, major new legislation is required to enable Florida to be an attractive home for business while still maintaining adequate individual safeguards. The time for action is NOW!

The Council of 100 encourages you to keep tort reform high on your legislative agendas and to reinvigorate the momentum for reform that occurred last year during the session. Reform is always difficult, and it was unfortunate that the most important aspects of reform were not completed last year.

This year there is again unanimous agreement among the business community that repeal of joint and several liability, in conjunction with necessary revisions to premises liability and class action lawsuits, are the primary legislative initiatives required to move Florida into the top tier of business friendly states. To sustain the economic growth witnessed over the past decade, our political leaders must have the courage to enact laws which ensure equitable treatment of both Florida citizens and corporations. How can allocating all the damages to a corporation which has been adjudged 5% at fault fulfill that commitment to fairness?

As business leaders, we urge continued discussion and debate, but most importantly, real reform of the civil justice system this year. Thanks for your continuing good work to improve the business climate in Florida.

Sincerely,

Peter Rummell  
Chairman

Tom James  
Tort Reform Task Force Chairman

Cc: Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, All Council of 100 Members, All Legislators, AIF (Barney Bishop), FCC (Frank Ryll), FJRI (William Large), TaxWatch (Dominic Calabro), EFI (John Adams)