



The Florida House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker

Larry Cretul
Speaker

July 15, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Atwater, President
The Florida Senate
Suite 409, The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear President Atwater:

I am in receipt of your letter dated today, suggesting a joint committee and special session in the coming weeks. I am glad we agree that productive legislation addressing the Gulf oil spill cannot be enacted during next week's scheduled special session. Our duty is to dispose of executive proposals responsibly. Rushing to amend the constitution at the last possible moment because of an accident hundreds of miles from our jurisdiction does not typify deliberation and responsible legislation.

As you and the citizens and legislators of the Panhandle know well, Floridians are suffering along the Gulf Coast from the BP Oil spill. I have followed with interest the work of Senator Gaetz' committee. I assure you that the House is also actively exploring the nature of the injuries, the nature of the federal and private responses, and all suggestions for state response that may require legislation. I believe we can cooperate as we prepare legislative proposals to be considered at a reasonable time. I have asked my staff to work with the Senate staff to resolve the details of the appropriate process and dates for a special session.

Consequently, I am committing the full resources of the House to the full exploration of any and all responsible legislation likely to aid Florida's survival of and recovery from the oil spill. I am also ready, willing and able to join you in calling a special session to convene as early as September, as soon as we can identify those subjects upon which we can act in order to responsibly improve our state's health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Cretul".

Larry Cretul
Speaker