

Date

Senator/Representative

The Capitol

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Senator/Representative:

As a business owner in Florida I am asking for your help. At almost every turn, the economic crisis in this state continues to cause businesses to fail. As if raising fees on almost every government service last year was not enough, we now have a crisis in unemployment compensation tax rate calculations that will put many of us out of business. Many of these increases are nearly 12 fold the amounts paid last year.

Employers already are squeezed by tight credit, rising health care costs, wary consumers and a higher minimum wage. Now, the surging jobless rate is imposing another cost. It is forcing higher state taxes on companies to pay for unemployment insurance claims.

This additional cost will make businesses less likely to hire. That could be a worrisome sign for the economic recovery in Florida because hospitality business is the largest private employer in the state. The magnitude of this unexpected unemployment rate hike will cause employers to further cut the workforce, freeze pay, or simply cease to exist.

I am asking you to take immediate action during the 2010 Legislative Session to give businesses a reasonable amount of time to recover from recent economic declines before burdening us with additional unemployment tax rate hikes.

Sincerely,