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TO: Florida Facility Managers Association

FROM: Wayne R. Malaney

RE: 2010 Legislative Report

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The 2011 session of the Florida Legislature once again faces a multibillion dollars budget deficit (projected @ \$3.5 Billion). The work began in earnest the week of January 10, 2010, with the holding of committee meetings. I have again secured Sen. Bennett to file a bill dealing with the retention of advance ticket sales by public venue. Former Senate President Gwen Margolis has agreed to file the bill to reinstate the exemption from sales tax for services related to the rental of a facility. Ellyn Bogdanoff, has been elected to the Senate and will chair the Senate Finance and Tax Committee for the upcoming term. Sen. Bogdanoff has sent word that she will conduct a hearing on the bill. However, it is way too early to anticipate the potential success of this measure getting to the Governor.

I have approached 2-3 House members to file the companion bill to the bill Sen. Bennett is filing for a second year in a row. Please be sure to send him a note of appreciation ([bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov)). I anticipate having the House sponsor confirmed during the week of January 24, 2010. As with last year, there is reluctance on the part of the House members to file a bill with an economic impact. I am working on finding a sponsor with the hope that job retention will form the foundation for moving the bill. I will meet with potential sponsors the week of January 24th and will discuss the matter with House Finance and Tax Chairman, Rep. Steve Precourt.

Governor Scott will not have his budget proposal to the Legislature until February. He has indicated he wants to adopt tax cuts to generate job creation. The Senate Appropriations Chair, J.D. Alexander, puts tax cuts as his 3rd priority. Sen. Alexander first wants to work with what is on hand to balance the budget and then build the reserves. Tax cuts will make this difficult.

It's a long way to the end of session the first week of May. As always, I am asking you to meet with your legislators at home. Now is as good a time as any. We have approximately 40 new House members and 2/3 of the House are either in their first or second term. They can benefit from your experience and knowledge. I have found over 25-30 years in the lobbying business that they welcome input/education from you--the folks in the trenches. Keep up the good work.