

Citizens for Digital Future What Florida Experts Say About Regulatory Reform

Associated Industries of Florida

“AIF SUPPORTS legislation that modernizes Florida’s communications laws and empowers consumers, not state regulation, to pick winners and losers. Further, AIF supports these much-needed reforms to keep and create jobs, and to spur investment, as Florida competes with states that have already created an attractive investment environment. Consumers continue to embrace fast-paced advances in communications technology, and competition is providing them with choices. Floridians have benefited most from communications providers’ innovation and investment in markets that are customer-focused and customer-driven; however, the full benefits of competition are being constrained by antiquated and burdensome state regulation on only one kind of communications provider — the incumbent landline telephone provider. Consumers are choosing other types of technology and services, such as wireless and broadband, while only the incumbent landline telephone providers are strapped with state regulation that hampers their ability to compete.”

(“2011 Session Priorities.” Associated Industries of Florida. Page 9 available at http://aif.com/publications/session_priorities/2011/Priorities--2011.pdf.)

Florida Governor Rick Scott

“On creating jobs: I look at jobs — it’s what I called the axis of unemployment, it’s taxation, litigation, regulation. So how do I make sure there are some logical regulations, but how do we not have regulations that are a job-killer?”

(“Interview with Florida’s Gov. Rick Scott” Florida Trend. March 1, 2011. available at <http://www.floridatrend.com/article.asp?page=1&aID=54587>.)

Florida Chamber of Commerce

“The Florida Chamber of Commerce announced its 2011 legislative priorities — a jobs creating agenda designed to reset Florida’s economy and help create at least 135,000 net new jobs by year’s end. Specific legislative priorities important to job creation and economic growth are, among others, to ‘Reform Regulations and Cut Red Tape.’ One example includes... Modernizing telecommunications laws to remove barriers to new technology investment and job growth.”

(“Florida Chamber of Commerce Unveils 2011 Legislative Agenda” Florida Chamber of Commerce. Pages 1-2. February 9, 2011. available at http://www.flchamber.com/docs/NR_FloridaChamberUnveils2011LegislativeAgenda_020911.pdf.)

James Madison Institute

“Many state governments — even Florida’s — still maintain certain obsolete regulatory practices that no longer serve the public interest but, instead, actually work against it. In this paper, authors Hance Haney and George Gilder focus a spotlight on archaic regulations that they say impede job growth and discourage investment. In particular, they argue for an end to regulations left over from the days when strict price and service regulations were deemed necessary because “Ma Bell” and other phone companies operated as monopolies in their respective geographic domains.”

(Sanchez, Robert F. “Foreword” in “Reform Florida Telecom Law” by Hance Haney and George Gilder.” Page 2)