

# Florida House of Representatives

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## **Senator J. D. Alexander (R-Lake Wales) and Rep. John Wood (R-Haines City) Honored with AIF Champion for Business Awards**

**TALLAHASSEE** – Reflecting a year when a record number of Florida legislators scored perfect or near perfect scores on the annual Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) Voting Records Report, the statewide business association today honored its largest class of Champion for Business award winners. Selected to receive the prestigious *2011 Champion for Business* awards are 18 Florida Senators and Representatives including **Sen. J. D. Alexander and Rep. John Wood**.

Following the conclusion of the legislative session, these awards are annually presented to leaders who have proven to be strong and forceful advocates for Florida's business community. Champions for Business are chosen for their support of meaningful and often controversial pro-business legislation that benefits employers and their workers.

“This was the year for reforms. Lawmakers reviewed, refined and, in some cases, completely overhauled systems that had ceased to function efficiently, properly or as intended. Major reforms to Medicaid, property insurance, unemployment compensation, the state's pension system and a number of tort/legal reform bills will help create jobs, decrease government spending and improve our overall economic climate,” said Barney T. Bishop III, President and CEO of AIF. “We commend these lawmakers for addressing tough issues and taking bold steps to radically alter the way our state conducts business.”

As the Senate Appropriations Chair, **Senator J. D. Alexander** (R-Lake Wales) reduced government spending and balanced the budget without increases in taxes or fees for employers despite record budget shortfall. Additionally, Sen. Alexander played a pivotal role in the defeat of immigration reform legislation that could have required employers to comply with the flawed E-Verify employee verification system. This is his second Champion for Business award.

For his role in championing the major property insurance reform bill this session, **Rep. John Wood** (R-Haines City) is receiving his first Champion for Business award. As the House's chief property insurance reform negotiator, Rep. Wood pushed for proposals that will concentrate on the cost drivers currently affecting the property insurance system and help rejuvenate the state's private property insurance market.

The awards will be formally presented to winners during the Champions for Business ceremony held in conjunction with AIF's Annual Conference in August.

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