



For more information, contact:

Christian D. Malesic, MBA, CAE, IOM

President/CEO

(321) 724-5400

Christian@MelbourneRegionalChamber.com

February 8, 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Melbourne Regional Chamber Board votes unanimously  
to stand up for tourism and economic development**

*Melbourne, FL:* The Melbourne Regional Chamber's Board of Directors voted unanimously today, to fervently stand up for tourism and economic development, as the Florida House considers a proposed committee bill that will eliminate funding for the state's main economic development agencies.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran's (R-Land o'Lakes) proposed bill PCB CCS 17-01 would eliminate the state's main economic development agencies, Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida, as well as several dozen programs that have helped make Florida a leader in job growth.

"We, as the business community of the Melbourne region, proclaim in unison and march in lock step to protect tourism and economic development funds that are critical to our regions continued job growth and economic diversification," said Christian D. Malesic, President/CEO of the Melbourne Regional Chamber.

Florida's tourism industry is a critical economic driver and job creator, bringing billions in state revenue, which is reinvested into programs that benefit all Floridians. Reductions in tourism marketing funding will have an immediate negative impact on the State and the Melbourne/Space Coast region.

Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida are public-private partnerships which encourage businesses and tourists to come to Florida, benefitting big and small companies as well as local municipalities throughout the state. In the last fiscal year, Florida's tourism related industries produced \$183.5 billion in total economic impact to the state. Since 2010, visitor spending has increased by \$30 billion with a record-breaking number of tourists visiting the state, bringing more jobs and more government revenue. It's the Chamber's position that this type of growth doesn't happen by chance, and is a direct result of investment in tourism marketing and promotion.

Enterprise Florida brings more jobs to Florida, while expanding and diversifying the state's industries. Bill PCB CCS 17-01 will put Florida at a competitive disadvantage with other states vying to attract large and small businesses.

"While other states are still suffering from the Great Recession, most of Florida, including the Melbourne region, has experienced such an upturn that we are on the edge of an economic boom," Malesic continued. "Now is not the time to throw on the brakes."

The Chamber is calling for all concerned citizens to contact and urge their legislative leaders to stand up for Florida's economy and kill PCB CCS 17-01.

###

Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida, recognized in the region as *The Business Chamber*, is a 5-star accredited Chamber from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber proudly serves the business community of East Central Florida. For more information, visit

[www.MelbourneRegionalChamber.com](http://www.MelbourneRegionalChamber.com).