

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
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Business Leaders Voice Federal Legislative Concerns

Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber members voiced their concerns regarding federal issues relating to the welfare of their business, organization or to the Valdosta-Lowndes community at the Members to be Heard meeting on Thursday. Issues included immigration, renewable energy and agency regulations.

Baha Zeidan, CEO of Azalea Health Innovations, addressed the issue of immigration laws as they pertain to employment and retaining talent. Currently, many university graduates choose to return to their native country after graduation as opposed to obtaining a costly green card. These graduates are starting companies in countries other than the United States.

“This issue affects our entire society as we want jobs to stay here. The main goal for my company is to find the right people and retain them; however our immigration law is almost the opposite of free enterprise. One of the toughest paths to obtaining a green card is through employment, while that should be one of the easiest,” stated Zeidan.

EPA rules concerning Utility MACT, programs to encourage incentives for renewable energy, agencies using rules and regulations to bypass Congress, and improvements to medical flexible accounts were also discussed.

Issues will be assigned to appropriate policy committees for further discussion and appropriate action. The meeting was held to give business leaders a chance to voice their concerns and let the Chamber know what issues to address during their annual trip to Washington D.C. in Sept.

The Chamber launched its new Government Affairs Council this year, designed to give businesses the opportunity to unite as one to give vital concerns proper legislative support. For more information on the Government Affairs Council visit www.valdostachamber.com/GAC.

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Baha Zeidan, CEO of Azalea Health Innovations, voices his concerns about the immigration process as it concerns employment at the Chamber's Members to be Heard meeting on Thursday.