



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

Franklin Sands
Democratic Leader

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Democratic Leader Pro Tempore

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**SANDS STATEMENT REGARDING
THE NEED FOR A SUMMER SPECIAL SESSION**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Florida House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement:

“Florida’s fragile coastline, our beautiful beaches, and the livelihoods of many Floridians are in imminent peril due to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Florida’s economy, key industries, and the livelihood of many people are at grave risk. The people are demanding action from their government. It is prudent that the Legislature move rapidly and provide urgent assistance.

“I am proud today to endorse the extraordinary efforts of Representatives Keith Fitzgerald and Rick Kriseman, policy leaders in the House Democratic Caucus, who today joined Senator Dan Gelber in calling on Governor Charlie Crist to convene a special session of the Legislature. They are requesting that the Legislature address important matters pertaining to the crisis in the Gulf of Mexico and its impacts on our state.

“I believe the current crisis highlights our state’s need for a modern energy policy that focuses on renewable energy sources, such as solar power and biomass. But as the other representatives have noted, the first order of business is to provide needed assistance for victims of the oil spill, and actions to ensure that our state and local

governments are adequately prepared to respond to the ongoing crisis. We also must move rapidly to put on the November ballot a constitutional ban on drilling in state waters.

“The debate about Florida’s long-term energy policy deserves attention, and it should begin as quickly as practicable.”

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