



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

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Democratic Leader

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**SANDS: LET'S FIRST PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL BAN
ON NEAR-BEACH DRILLING IN FLORIDA WATERS**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. --- Florida lawmakers will convene a special session that starts Tuesday. Today, House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement:

“I call on House Republican leaders today to dismiss rumors that they will take a gavel-and-go strategy to the special session.

“The Legislature has a historic opportunity next week to give voters the right to create a permanent ban on oil drilling in Florida waters and to begin discussions on other measures to bring relief to Floridians hurt by the BP disaster. This is an opportunity that shouldn't be wasted.

“It would be an unconscionable dereliction of duties to ignore the opportunity we have this month to empower voters with a constitutional ban that takes the security and safety of our coastlines away from special interests and gives it to the people.

“Sadly, nearly 3.9 million barrels of oil have spewed into the Gulf as a result of the BP disaster that began 10 weeks ago. Floridians and some of our state's key industries are suffering. The people expect public officials to take serious and urgent action.

“The Legislature has the responsibility to give voters the right to create a permanent ban on near-shore drilling in Florida waters. The Legislature also has ample opportunity next week to begin deliberations on other productive legislation addressing the Gulf spill.”

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