



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 26, 2007

Mr. Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit Council Substitute for House Bill 1535, with my signature, enacted during the 109th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to the Sebastian River Drainage District...

This bill converts the Sebastian River Drainage District into an improvement district, thereby expanding the district's powers.

Special districts deliver services to many Floridians. As areas grow, the demand for services grows, and special districts begin to fulfill many functions beyond their original construction and codification. Accordingly, review and restructuring of a special district's powers and functions be proper as the demand for services continues to grow.

However, a referendum should occur when any changes to a special district's taxing, assessment, or bonding authority occurs. The need for a referendum is heightened when any such change leads to increased financial cost to taxpayers or changes the authorized use of revenues derived from taxes and assessments.

I have received assurances in writing that a referendum will occur within the next 30 days to determine support for the transition of the Sebastian River Drainage District, thereby authorizing the District to levy non-ad valorem assessments for additional infrastructure such as road, water, and sewer. Based upon these assurances, I hereby sign into law, Council Substitute for House Bill 1535, and encourage the Legislature to consider the concerns identified herein.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

CC/dmm