



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

June 12, 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 House Bill 549, with my signature, enacted during the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to power plants . . .

House Bill 549 is important, bipartisan legislation that advances two key priorities of my administration. First, this bill authorizes the Public Service Commission to require effective utilization of renewable energy sources and conservation measures prior to approving a request for construction of a new power plant. Second, this bill balances the need for fuel diversity with the concerns and challenges relative to global climate change by encouraging investment in Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle ("IGCC") power generation, a technology which appears to offer the best potential for striking this balance.

As we strive to meet Florida's growing energy demands, we must maximize the use of renewable fuels and energy conservation while keeping energy affordable for all Floridians. Mandating consideration of renewables and conservation **before** a power plant is constructed ensures these important goals are not overlooked.

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Additionally, encouraging investment in IGCC technology advances these goals as well. Coal is an abundant resource in the United States offering advantages for both energy independence and affordability. However, if we are to continue including coal as part of a diverse fuel mix in Florida, we must do so only in an environmentally responsible way. IGCC technology offers the best potential in this regard as it releases less climate changing gases, less mercury and consumes far less water than traditional coal plants. Moreover, the potential for carbon capture and storage appears most promising utilizing IGCC technology. Likely for these reasons, House Bill 549 enjoys the support of, among others, Audubon of Florida, The Florida Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and the Clean Air Task Force (see attached correspondence).

Finally, in furtherance of the objectives outlined herein, I understand the proposed TECO Energy IGCC project, if approved, will not only take advantage of \$133.5 million in federal tax credits, but will also maximize the use of biomass as a fuel source and, through continued work with the University of South Florida and others, further develop carbon capture and storage technology.

Therefore, I hereby sign into law House Bill 549.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Charlie Crist