

Dear Friends,

This week I had the honor of co-hosting other governors and international leaders, along with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, at the Governor's Global Climate Summit in California. Our country is showing leadership at the state level and is moving forward to fight global climate change. By partnering with other countries that are also taking action to reduce emissions and protect our rainforests, we can provide a cleaner future for all.

Governor Schwarzenegger has done a remarkable job of calling for collaborative action across the globe. California is setting an example by adopting progressive laws and policies that protect the environment, including the world's first greenhouse gas emission standard for vehicles. We can learn a lot from their leadership on this issue, and their forward thinking.

In Florida, we are also making progress.



This year, the Florida Legislature built on our 2007 executive orders by adopting bipartisan, comprehensive energy and economic development legislation. This legislation will help grow our market for renewable energy sources, increase our energy efficiency, reduce our reliance on foreign oil and protect our environment by reducing greenhouse gases. These actions place Florida in the forefront of the effort to address global climate change and position us to become a major market center

for the technologies of tomorrow.

One way we are achieving these goals is through the creation of the Florida Energy Systems Consortium among state universities. Entrepreneurs – along with our universities – can grow Florida's green tech industry, and develop the technology needed to power our homes and move our people and products in energy-efficient ways.

To better position our universities for the future, this week I unveiled a proposal that will strengthen our universities, as well as our colleges, now and for decades to come. My proposal will help provide stability, establishing clear lines of governance at both the university and the state level. It will also balance the financial needs of the universities with affordability for families – allowing the continued access to higher education that every Floridian deserves.

Thank you and God bless.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Photo Caption: Governor Charlie Crist signs House Bill 7135 at the 2008 Serve to Preserve Climate Change Summit. The bill is a comprehensive energy and economic development package aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as encouraging investment in alternative and renewable energy technologies.