

Dear Friends,

This week I continued my focus on strengthening Florida's economy as I visited workforce centers in Osceola County and Tampa and held a town hall meeting in Kissimmee. It is important for me to have the opportunity to listen to your concerns and needs. I am committed to making sure that your priorities are my priorities.



I also signed the revised 2008-09 budget passed during a special legislative session earlier this month. I appreciate the difficult work of the Legislature to reduce the current year's budget during these historically challenging economic times. I believe that government can tighten our belts, just as you – the people of Florida are doing. I also believe that we can still maintain our investment in priority areas to ensure the safety and security of our people and visitors to our state.

As we look to building a brighter future for the Sunshine State, we can look to the international trade industry, which has remained strong, in spite of challenges in other business sectors. Thanks to Florida's 14 public deepwater seaports, international trade continues to drive the United States and Florida economy in spite of an economic downturn.

This week we welcome visitors from across the country to enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer, as we host Super Bowl XLIII. It is the 14th Super Bowl hosted by the Sunshine State. We continue to be a destination for millions of vacationers, who come from around the globe to enjoy our beaches, recreation parks and natural beauty. It is vital that we preserve the state's investment in protecting Florida's tourism industry, as well as our other economic sectors.

May we find hope in God's strength through these tough times, and may He continue to bless our beautiful state.

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

Photo Caption:

Governor Charlie Crist and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp hold a town hall meeting in Kissimmee to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Florida to voice their concerns about issues important to them.