



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR PAULA DOCKERY

Majority Whip
15th District

October 26, 2007

Governor Charlie Crist
State of Florida
The Capitol PL-05
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

President Ken Pruitt
Florida Senate
The Capitol Suite 409
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Speaker Marco Rubio
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol Suite 420
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor Crist, President Pruitt, and Speaker Rubio:

As we all work to bridge the gap between the Senate and House to achieve meaningful property tax reform for Florida's citizens, I would like to share with you the ideas I have been hearing from constituents and make two suggestions as we approach Monday's deadline.

There are three ideas that have been recurring in all of my conversations with constituents this week. Citizens have indicated to me that they want to double the homestead exemption, to allow portability, and to provide an exemption for tangible personal property taxes. Professional staff has indicated that for the portability component to be constitutionally viable it needs to be paired with the first time homebuyer exemption, thus I agree that the exemption should be included in the final product.

The joint resolutions passed by the Senate and House contain numerous components in addition to the four mentioned above. My concern is that if we load up a single constitutional amendment with too many ideas, it becomes difficult to provide a clear and understandable summary, it

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Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

KEN PRUITT
President of the Senate

LISA CARLTON
President Pro Tempore

October 26, 2007

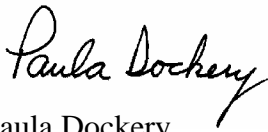
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increases the chance of the entire amendment being thrown out from a court review, and it weighs down the three straightforward ideas that the people want. We need to ensure that the product put on the ballot can be clearly explained, can withstand legal challenge, and that each idea can stand or fall on its own. My suggestion is that each individual component that is agreed to by the House and Senate be put forth as separate joint resolutions, with only the portability and first time homebuyer exemptions combined. While the Legislature is not confined to the constitutional amendment single subject rule that applies to citizens initiatives, it would be a good policy on an issue as complicated as property taxes to pass single subject joint resolutions that provide a clear and understandable menu of options. This will also solve the possible issue of constitutionality mentioned above.

In addition, the original purpose of this special session was to meet the deadline to put a constitutional amendment on the January 29 ballot. I would suggest that we limit the special session product to those changes that must be done as a constitutional amendment and hold the statutory changes until the 2008 Regular Session. This will allow statutory changes to be made through a full democratic process in which all members can participate.

Thank you for your commitment to providing property tax relief for Florida's citizens. It is my hope that you will implement these suggestions as we work towards a consensus package that the entire Legislature can be proud of.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Dockery". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Paula Dockery
State Senator