



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2010

Interim Secretary Dawn Roberts  
Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Interim Secretary Roberts:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 7103, enacted during the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2010 and entitled:

An act relating to agriculture ...

HB 7103 prohibits counties from enforcing existing environmental ordinances that regulate farm operations. The bill also provides a number of exceptions to the enforcement prohibition that could be confusing for the general public, owners of agricultural lands, and counties to interpret and apply.

I have concerns about the restrictions placed on local governments that are contained in this bill. There is not an adequate justification for the state to interject its authority over local decision making. While state regulation is sometimes necessary to provide certainty, uniformity, and stability on certain policy issues, it should be applied sparingly. This bill attempts to apply a remedy without sufficiently identifying a problem.

For the reasons stated above, I am hereby withholding my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 7103.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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