



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 Secretary Roberts:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Florida, and 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 Committee Substitute for House Bill 981, enacted during the 112th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2010 and entitled:

An act relating to agriculture ...

HB 981 protects the greenbelt tax exemption when an owner sells property for development so long as the owner claims it is being used for agriculture uses.

I have concerns about making it easier for developers to take advantage of a program intended to protect Florida farmers from facing financial pressures to sell their land. Rather than benefitting farmers as the greenbelt provisions are intended, this bill could subsidize private real estate speculation at the expense of the taxpayer.

For the reasons stated above, I am hereby withholding my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 981.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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