



Most area lawmakers voting 'pro-business' much of the time, group says

By Jim Turner

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Most state legislators from the Treasure Coast were above average among their peers when voting on economic issues, according to Associated Industries of Florida, a statewide business group. However, the overall percentage of pro-business approvals dropped in the spring session.

Three area legislators voted for pro-business issues 92 percent of the time: Rep. William Snyder, R-Stuart; Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart; and Rep. Stan Mayfield, R-Vero Beach.

Senators Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, and J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, both with 76 percent voting records, were at the bottom of the list among Treasure Coast legislators on issues and legislation impacting Florida's economic climate, businesses and employers, according to the business group.

The group reported that Senate votes on pro-business legislation were down from 85 percent in 2007 to 81 percent this year. House votes were down from 92 percent in 2007 to 90 in the 2008 legislative session. The percentages were the lowest since 2005 in the House and 2003 in the Senate.

Barney Bishop, president and CEO of Associated Industries, said the scores provide a picture of how their local legislators voted on financial issues.

"With more than \$6 billion in state budget cuts and a number of key Senate and House seats up for re-election, lawmakers faced unique challenges," Bishop said. "However, times of financial uncertainty underscore the importance of supporting Florida's business community and the role it will play in the resurgence of our state's economy."