

**U.S. Chemical Safety and  
Hazard Investigation Board**

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**John S. Bresland**  
Chairman and CEO

**Gary L. Visscher**  
Board Member

**William B. Wark**  
Board Member

**William E. Wright**  
Board Member



MAR 23 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
Office of the Governor  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

I write to urge you again to support action on the recommendations that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) made to you and the Florida Legislature in March, 2007. The CSB issued those recommendations following our investigation of the tragic explosion and fire that took the lives of two municipal workers and seriously injured a third at the Bethune Point wastewater treatment facility in Daytona Beach, Florida, on January 11, 2006. Attached is a copy of our recommendations for your information, and the full report may be found at:  
[http://www.csb.gov/completed\\_investigations/docs/CSBBethuneFinalReport.pdf](http://www.csb.gov/completed_investigations/docs/CSBBethuneFinalReport.pdf).

As you know, we were very encouraged when you appointed an expert task force to consider the CSB recommendations (Florida Public Task Force on Workplace Safety). In their December 18, 2008 final report, the Task Force stated that their *"primary recommendation is that legislation require all cities, counties, municipalities, school districts, state agencies, and special districts comply with OSHA CFR 1910 (General Industry) and OSHA CFR 1926 (Construction) standards within three years."*

The most compelling reason for acting on this issue is to ensure that public workers receive the same health and safety regulatory coverage that has been extended to private sector workers since the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. It is a matter of fairness and equity. While some may be concerned that extending coverage to public workers may be difficult during a time of serious economic stress, please remember that excellence in health and safety--according to many experts and several presentations to your Task Force--will in all likelihood bring savings to the State of Florida.

This is an opportune time to once again bring this to your attention, because the Florida legislature, in its current session, is considering proposals in both the Senate and House that address the Task Force's recommendations. I urge you to work in partnership with these efforts and help extend equity of coverage in health and safety to public workers in your State. Please let me know if our Agency can be helpful in any manner in facilitating discussion of the recommendations in our report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Bresland".

John S. Bresland  
Chairman / CEO

Attachment: CSB Recommendations to the State of Florida

**U.S. Chemical Safety and  
Hazard Investigation Board**

cc: Representative Larry Cretul  
Representative Robert C. Schenck  
Representative Oscar Braynon II  
Representative Pat Patterson  
Representative Priscilla Taylor  
Representative Dave Murzin  
Representative Audrey Gibson  
Representative Marcelo Llorente  
Representative Kelly Skidmore  
Senator Jeff Atwater  
Senator Garrett S. Richter  
Senator Christopher L. Smith  
Senator Michael S. Bennett  
Senator Gary Siplin  
Senator Mike Haridopolos  
Senator Carey Baker  
Senator Alfred Lawson, Jr.

**U.S. Chemical Safety and  
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**CSB Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature of the State  
of Florida  
Issued March, 2007**

*2006-3-I-FL-R1: Enact legislation requiring state agencies and each political subdivision (i.e. counties and municipalities) of Florida to implement policies, practices, procedures, including chemical hazards covering the workplace health and safety of Florida public employees that are at least as effective as OSHA. Establish and fund a mechanism to ensure compliance with these standards. Consider legislation providing coverage of Florida public employees under an occupational safety and health program in accordance with Section 18(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR 1956.1.*

*2006-3-I-FL-R2: Develop and fund a workplace safety and health consultation program for Florida public employees similar to the private sector program currently administered by the Florida Safety Consultation Program at the University of South Florida.*