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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 27, 2010

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# HOUSE PASSES RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL

*~Measure encourages the growth of green jobs through renewable energy projects in Florida~*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** – Today the Florida House passed legislation that encourages the growth of green jobs through renewable energy projects in Florida. House Bill (HB) 7229 amends the definitions of “renewable energy” and “biomass” to include additional energy resources. The measure thoughtfully contains costs and allows the public to benefit from the construction or purchase of renewable resources. The sponsors of the measure, Representative Stephen Precourt (R-Orlando), and Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) issued the following joint statement:

“Floridians understand that it’s time to step up to the plate and truly incentivize renewable energy in our state. This measure is a balanced, thoughtful approach to encouraging a diverse alternative energy portfolio,” stated Representative McKeel.

“I’m proud this innovative proposal passed the House with such broad and bi-partisan support,” said Representative Steve Precourt. “This good policy has the promise of ensuring that Florida’s citizens have the cleanest, most reliable, and secure energy sources, while promoting alternative energy technologies in this growing industry.”

The bill:

- Encourages the growth of green jobs through renewable energy projects in Florida;
- Rather than more costly alternatives such as Cap and Trade or Renewable Portfolio Standards, HB 7229 will incentivize instead of mandating the expansion of renewable energy;
- Allows widening of the scope of what Florida defines as renewable energy;
- Helps to remove permitting and other regulatory barriers to placement of solar and other renewable energy generating projects; and
- Allows the drawdown of loan guarantee funds from the federal government that can be used to create and expand renewable energy projects in Florida and generate jobs.

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