

Dear Friends: The 2011 Legislative Session, which starts in early March, is almost upon us. During this time of year, I spend most of my time preparing bills, meeting with my committees in Tallahassee, and holding citizen meetings in Volusia County. Here's what I'm working on right now:

- It's been almost nine months since the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico, but the process to reimburse those who lost jobs or resources is ongoing. Our top priority in Tallahassee is to create an economic environment that leads to private-sector job creation, so we need to make sure that any Floridians who suffered losses as a result of the spill are treated fairly by the claims process. Even though Volusia County was spared from any oil on our beaches, people here have still been affected. I've talked to Volusia residents who are concerned about damage to the value of their property on the Gulf, while others have had business operations disrupted over there. There are concerns that the claims process isn't working properly. That's why I'm going to be conducting a review of the federal government's claims process, beginning this month. We're going to call Kenneth Feinberg, the lawyer who runs the claims process, to appear before my Economic Affairs Committee later this month. If you have any information that you'd like to pass on about the claims process, please contact me at the email address below.

- I'm looking forward to seeing the AFRW members who are traveling by bus to Tallahassee next month for the AFRW Annual Meeting. I will be at the Legislative Gala on Monday, March 7th, so I hope to see you there!

Thanks for reading. It's an honor to represent you in Tallahassee. I welcome your thoughts and comments. Please feel free to email me at dorothy@dorothyhukill.com.

Sincerely,
Dorothy L. Hukill
State Representative, District 28