



STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

Proudly Serving District 14 ~ Portions of Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties

2014 Legislative Session Newsletter

December, 2014

Soto Chairs 2014 Orange County Delegation



It was an honor to be able to chair the Orange County Delegation this year as we heard from numerous citizens, elected officials and various groups about important issues affecting our County and our State. We had compelling testimony regarding extending the statute of limitations on sexual assault. Both educators and elected officials implored us to limit new high stakes testing so the existing reforms can take root as well as increase teacher minimum salaries to at least \$40,000 per

year. UCF officials presented three wonderful economic development projects including expanding our Simulation Research Park in East Orange, creating a Sensors Consortium to develop new technology in Osceola, and building a Downtown Orlando campus. Film industry representatives also made a strong pitch to reinstitute the Florida Film Tax Credit to bolster an industry with average wages of \$70,000 per year.

Soto and Bullard File Fracking Ban



I was proud to team up with Senator Dwight Bullard to file legislation this month to ban fracking in our State. Fracking involves injecting chemicals under high pressure into the ground to fracture the rock below to extract oil and gas. Since we get the majority of our water from underground through the Floridan Aquifer, I remain greatly concerned that

fracking would put this water supply in jeopardy by potentially subjecting it to harmful chemicals. Also with tourism being our largest industry, a fracking contamination incident would put millions of jobs in jeopardy by damaging our State's reputation for beauty and a pristine environment. With these issues in mind, it is clear that fracking and Florida do not mix!

Soto Attends Kissimmee River Restoration Forum



With over \$900 million in taxpayer dollars invested, the Kissimmee River restoration plan improves the water source for the Everglades, provides water for Central Florida, and is a natural habitat for 100's of rare Florida species. I attended the Florida Department of Environmental Protection rulemaking meeting

to assure that any additional consumptive use permits, allowing individuals to draw water from the restoration area, will not diminish the affect of this major restoration project. I strongly urge you to take a tour, kayak or hike in this wonderfully restored region snaking from Lake Toho all the way through Osceola and Okeechobee counties into Lake Okeechobee. It truly is an environmental treasure!

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