

Global warming is both a perilous problem and a fantastic opportunity for Florida. When Governor Crist says global climate change is one of the most importance issues we face this new century, he is right. Solving this crisis will require new approaches, technological advancements, and bold leadership. With the right leadership Florida can launch itself ahead of other states, and even other countries, becoming a world leader in energy-efficiency practices and green-energy. State leaders need to seize this fortunate economic opportunity.

Earlier this month at the climate summit, Governor Charlie Crist showed just this type of leadership when he called global warming a dire threat to Florida and said the state must take dramatic action. He signed Executive orders based on the best available science and called for Florida to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050. His goals for Florida are bold and ambitious, but there is no indication that Governor Crist plans on abandoning conservative market based principles to solve global warming. Governor Crist was not proposing a big government plan; at his Climate Summit he clearly favored a conservative market-driven system.

Last week speaker of the House Marco Rubio argued that Governor Crist's leadership will amount to an economic burden for the citizens State of Florida. That analysis was extremely premature and flat out wrong. Unfortunately, Florida House Speaker Marco Rubio did not attend the summit, if he had, I am confident that the exhibitors, the attendees and the panel discussions would have excited him. Business leaders flocked to Miami from around the state -- and even the country -- to tout the latest and greatest in energy efficiency and green-energy. To those who attended the conference, these technologies and exhibitors -- and not big government -- were the pathways to a greener future. Some exhibitors were young up-starts, but many were established pioneers in their field like General Electric and Toyota.

The governor's actions open Florida up to whole new technology sectors -- the green ones. Embracing this greener future encourages the creation of high-tech jobs and technologies that will enable Florida businesses to become world-leaders. Green technology will be one of the largest growth engines of the 21st century and we cannot afford to miss this fantastic opportunity. The governor's actions are not just great for Florida's citizens; they are great for Florida's businesses. In the sunshine state, companies can go green to make green.

Some claim a cap on carbon emissions would hurt the economy but many leading businesses are actually for a carbon cap. Here are just 10: Caterpillar Inc., Chrysler Group, DuPont, Ford Motor Company, General Electric, General Motors Corp., Johnson & Johnson, PepsiCo, Shell, Xerox Corporation. They and many others have joined the US-Cap Campaign that calls for a market-driven cap on carbon emissions. They realize that taking action makes not only environmental sense, but business sense as well.

As a former Florida Marine Fisheries Commissioner and longtime charter boat captain I am keenly aware that any legitimate analysis of the cost of Climate Action must include the *cost of inaction*. The true cost of inaction is largely unknown, but what we do know is that the costs will be great. Florida is extremely and uniquely vulnerable to climate change. If temperatures rise in the north, tourism decreases. If sea levels rise, our coastal communities and economies are threatened. If ocean temperatures rise, our prized coral reefs and flourishing recreational fishing industry may be lost.

We cannot afford inaction.

This is why Florida is fortunate to have bold leaders like Speaker Rubio, with his 100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future, and Governor Crist, with his Climate Change plan. They share many ideas; Speaker Rubio heralded the

passing of Farm-to-Fuel legislation that would encourage the development and distribution of biofuels. Just last week, the governor delivered the summit's keynote address at the Farm-to-Fuel summit. These two leaders have similar ideas.

If there was ever a time that Florida needed these innovative leaders, now would be the time. There is no reason that these two leaders cannot come together to work on this pressing issue and turn it into an economic advantage. There is a conservative market-driven and uniquely-Floridian approach to this problem that can reap the state and business great returns. These two men can find it. They have to.

Captain Dan Kipnis  
3156 Royal Palm Ave.  
Miami Beach, Fl. 33140

305-672-3807