

SB 902 by **Clemens**; (Similar to H 0363) Hemp Production

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

AGRICULTURE
Senator Montford, Chair
Senator Dean, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, March 23, 2015
TIME: 4:00 —6:00 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Office Building

MEMBERS: Senator Montford, Chair; Senator Dean, Vice Chair; Senators Bullard, Galvano, Garcia, Grimsley, and Sobel

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 902 Clemens (Similar H 363)	Hemp Production; Citing this act as the "Hemp Industry Development Act"; providing that hemp is an agricultural crop; providing legislative intent; requiring registration of hemp producers; providing registration requirements; providing exemptions; requiring rulemaking; providing for an affirmative defense to certain charges relating to cannabis; providing exceptions to other laws, etc. AG 03/23/2015 Favorable CJ RI AP	Favorable Yeas 7 Nays 0
2	Continuation of Discussion of Citrus Greening, Including Possible Solutions and Funding Mechanisms		Discussed
Other Related Meeting Documents			

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Agriculture

BILL: SB 902

INTRODUCER: Senator Clemens

SUBJECT: Hemp Production

DATE: March 23, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Becker	Becker	AG	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	CJ	_____
3.	_____	_____	RI	_____
4.	_____	_____	AP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 902 creates the Hemp Industry Development Act. The bill defines hemp and establishes that hemp is considered an agricultural crop in Florida. It provides that an individual intending to grow hemp shall register with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) and establishes the requirements and procedures for doing so. The bill gives rulemaking authority to the department to test and inspect hemp and to collect a fee to offset the costs associated with such testing and inspecting.

II. Present Situation:

It is estimated that hemp has been grown for at least 12,000 years for textiles, paper, and food.¹ Industrial hemp and marijuana are both classified as *Cannabis sativa*, but industrial hemp is bred to maximize fiber and seed/oil, while marijuana is bred to maximize delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Industrial hemp has a THC content of between 0.05-1% and marijuana has a THC content of 3-20%.²

Chapter 893, F.S., designates *Cannabis* plants and the THC as Schedule I substances. These are illegal to possess in Florida, aside from a low-THC strain for medical use.

The 2014 Farm Bill included a provision that would allow institutions of higher education and state departments of agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp.³ As of September 2014 nineteen states had laws to provide for hemp pilot studies and/or for production.⁴

¹ North American Industrial Hemp Council, Inc.

²² *Id.*

³ National Conference of State Legislatures, *State Industrial Hemp Statutes*, September 15, 2014.

⁴ *Id.*

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 cites this act as the “Hemp Industry Development Act.”

Section 2 defines “hemp” as all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis* containing no more than 0.3 percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol. It states hemp is considered an agricultural crop in Florida and that hemp produces a viable, environmentally sound crop. It states the Legislature intends to promote economic development and job growth through the cultivation, processing, distribution, manufacturing, and sale of hemp.

The bill creates procedures for individuals intending to grow hemp to register with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department). The individual must submit a form to the department with the name and address of the individual, a statement that the seeds obtained for planting meet the requirements set forth in the bill, and the location and acreage of all parcels sown with hemp. An individual registered with the department must allow hemp crops to be inspected and tested by and at the discretion of the department at all stages of hemp production and distribution. The bill authorizes the department to assess an annual registration fee of up to \$100 for the performance of its duties under this section. The bill exempts from the registration requirements of this section employees of the Experiment Station of the University of Florida, Extension Service of the University of Florida, or the State University System involved in research or extension-related activities.

The bill gives the department rulemaking authority including, but not limited to:

- Testing of the hemp during growth to determine delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol levels;
- Inspection of hemp during the during sowing, growing season, harvest, storage, processing, manufacturing, and distribution; and
- Assessment of a fee to offset the costs of the department’s activities in the testing and inspection of hemp production.

The bill prohibits the department from adopting a rule that prohibits an individual from growing, processing, distributing, manufacturing, or selling hemp based on its legal status under federal law.

The bill provides that it is an affirmative defense to a charge or prosecution for the possession, cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, distribution or sale of cannabis under chapter 893 that:

- The defendant was growing, processing, distributing, manufacturing, or selling hemp pursuant to this section; or
- The defendant had valid applicable controlled substances registrations from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The bill states that it is not a violation of state or local law for an individual to grow, possess, distribute, move, manufacture, dispose of, sell, purchase, or possess hemp.

Section 3 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

According to the Department of Revenue's Legislative Bill Analysis, federal law prohibits financial institutions from accepting funds from the sale of Schedule I controlled substances. Taxpayers would be unable to submit any applicable sales tax to the Department of Revenue using electronic methods, given these banking restrictions. In addition, it is unclear whether accepting cash payments of sales tax on these federally restricted items, and then processing and distributing the funds, would cause the Department to be in violation of federal law.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

See "Tax/Fee Issues" regarding the Department of Revenue. The bill would require the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to regulate the growth and distribution of hemp and a fee is associated to offset the cost of doing so.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' bill analysis raises a number of questions, including:

- Would large plantings of industrial grade *Cannabis* pose an invasive plant threat?
- What are the standards that should apply to cultivation and cultivation containment?
- What will the scope of interest in production be, which in-turn will determine the level of resources needed to oversee it?

The Department suggests the need for more research to determine the true impact of hemp as an agricultural crop.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 581.301 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Clemens

27-01100-15

2015902__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to hemp production; providing a short
 3 title; creating s. 581.301, F.S.; providing a
 4 definition; providing that hemp is an agricultural
 5 crop; providing legislative intent; requiring
 6 registration of hemp producers; providing registration
 7 requirements; providing exemptions; requiring
 8 rulemaking; providing for an affirmative defense to
 9 certain charges relating to cannabis; providing
 10 exceptions to other laws; providing an effective date.

12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Hemp Industry
 15 Development Act."

16 Section 2. Section 581.301, Florida Statutes, is created to
 17 read:

18 581.301 Hemp.—

19 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "hemp"
 20 means all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis* containing no
 21 more than 0.3 percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol.

22 (2) AGRICULTURAL CROP.—Hemp is considered an agricultural
 23 crop in this state which produces a viable, environmentally
 24 sound crop that requires less irrigation, fewer pesticides, and
 25 fewer toxic refinery processes than alternative materials and
 26 has multiple applications that include a wide variety of
 27 manufactured and fabricated products. The Legislature intends to
 28 promote economic development and job growth through the
 29 cultivation, processing, distribution, manufacturing, and sale

Page 1 of 3

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

27-01100-15

2015902__

30 of hemp. Upon meeting the requirements of subsection (3), an
 31 individual in this state may plant, grow, or harvest hemp.
 32 (3) REGISTRATION.—
 33 (a) Except as provided in this section, an individual
 34 intending to grow hemp shall register with the department
 35 through submission of a form provided by the department
 36 containing:
 37 1. The name and address of the individual.
 38 2. A statement that the seeds obtained for planting are of
 39 a type and variety containing no more than 0.3 percent delta-9
 40 tetrahydrocannabinol.
 41 3. The location and acreage of all parcels sown with hemp
 42 and other field identification as may be required by the
 43 department.
 44 (b) An individual registered with the department pursuant
 45 to this section must allow hemp crops to be inspected and tested
 46 by and at the discretion of the department throughout sowing,
 47 growing season, harvest, storage, processing, manufacturing, and
 48 distribution.
 49 (c) The department may assess an annual registration fee on
 50 growers of up to \$100 for the performance of its duties under
 51 this section.
 52 (d) The registration requirements of this section do not
 53 apply to employees of the Experiment Station of the University
 54 of Florida, Extension Service of the University of Florida, or
 55 the State University System involved in research or extension-
 56 related activities.
 57 (4) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt rules that
 58 include, but are not limited to:

Page 2 of 3

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

27-01100-15

2015902__

59 (a) Testing of the hemp during growth to determine delta-9
60 tetrahydrocannabinol levels.

61 (b) Inspection of the hemp during sowing, growing season,
62 harvest, storage, processing, manufacturing, and distribution.

63 (c) Assessment of a fee that is commensurate with the costs
64 of the department's activities in testing and inspection of hemp
65 production.

66 (d) The department may not adopt under this chapter, or any
67 other provision of law, a rule that prohibits an individual from
68 growing, processing, distributing, manufacturing, or selling
69 hemp based on its legal status under federal law.

70 (e) Any other rules and procedures necessary to carry out
71 this section.

72 (5) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE FOR CANNABIS OFFENSES.—It is an
73 affirmative defense to a charge or prosecution for the
74 possession, cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, distribution,
75 or sale of cannabis under chapter 893 that:

76 (a) The defendant was growing, processing, distributing,
77 manufacturing, or selling hemp pursuant to this section; or

78 (b) The defendant had valid applicable controlled
79 substances registrations from the United States Drug Enforcement
80 Administration.

81 (6) EXCEPTIONS TO OTHER LAWS.—It is not a violation of
82 state or local law for an individual to grow, process,
83 distribute, move, manufacture, dispose of, sell, purchase, or
84 possess hemp.

85 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

tab 1
✓
SB 902
Bill Number (if applicable)

3/23/15
Meeting Date

Topic HEMP INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name ROBERT CLAYTON

Job Title MECH ENGINEER (RET)

Address 381 OASIS PARK RD
Street

Phone 727-512-7771

FORT MYERS, FL 33905
City State Zip

Email rfcclayton@centurylink.net

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing HEMP INDUSTRIES ASSOC.

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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3-23-2015
Meeting Date

902
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Hemp in DMS Commodity Code Standardization Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Project

Name Ethel Rowland

Job Title Legislative Director

Address 1375 Cypress Ave
Street

Phone C 772-618-3678

Melbourne FL 32935
City State Zip

Email ethelrowland@gmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Cannabis Action Network

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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March 23, 2015
Meeting Date

SB 902
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Industrial hemp as an agricultural crop

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michael Krehl

Job Title Liaison

Address 3784 Wentworth Way
Street

Phone 850-653-5191

Tallahassee FL 32311
City State Zip

Email floridahempalliance@gmail.com

Speaking: [X] For [] Against [] Information

Waive Speaking: [] In Support [] Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing

Appearing at request of Chair: [] Yes [X] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [] Yes [X] No

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3/23/15

Meeting Date

SB 902

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SB 902 Hemp Production

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Kevin Koelermij

Job Title Licensed Real Estate Associate

Address 2225 Amelia Circle

Phone 850-519-0454

Tallahassee Fl. 32304-2637

Street

City

State

Zip

Email KKoelermij@aol.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Self

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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APPEARANCE RECORD

3/23/15
Meeting Date

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SR 902
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Hemp Production

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ron Watson

Job Title Lobbyist

Address 3738 Mundon Way

Phone 850 567-1202

Street
Tallahassee FL 32309
City State Zip

Email watson.strategies@comcast.net

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Watson Strategies

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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APPEARANCE RECORD

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3/13/15
Meeting Date

902
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Industrialized Hemp as Ag. Crop

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Savana Osterbye

Job Title Child care

Address 4987 Glen Castle Dr.

Phone 850-570-8553

Tallahassee FL 32309
City State Zip

Email savanaosterbye@gmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing concerned citizen

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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3/23/15

Meeting Date

902

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Industrialized hemp as Agriculturalized crop

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Richard Abelera

Job Title Student

Address 880 Bahama Dr

Phone 850.264.8922

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32305

City

State

Zip

Email abel1260@mymail1.fcc.fl.edu

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Concerned Citizen

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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3/23/15
Meeting Date

902
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Industrial Hemp as Ag. Crop

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Carina Krehl

Job Title Student

Address 3784 Wentworth Way
Street
Tallahassee FL 32311
City State Zip

Phone (850)653-5849

Email Krehl1234@gmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing as concerned citizen

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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3/23/15

Meeting Date

902

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Industrial Hemp as Ag Crop

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jesse Krell

Job Title student

Address 3784 Wentworth Way

Phone

Street

allahassee

City

FL

State

32311

Zip

Email

Speaking: [X] For [] Against [] Information

Waive Speaking: [X] In Support [] Against (The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing as concerned citizen

Appearing at request of Chair: [] Yes [X] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [] Yes [X] No

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Meeting Date _____

902
Bill Number (if applicable) _____

Topic HEMP

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Name JEFF SHARKEY

Job Title CAG

Address 106 E Collier Ave

Phone 224 1000

Street

City

State

Zip

PH FL 32301

Email JEFF@SHARKEY.COM

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing MEDICAL MARIJUANA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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Tab 2

3/23/15

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Abandon Grove Demonstration Project

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Callie Walker

Job Title Bureau Chief - PE & C

Address 3027 Lake Alfred Rd.

Phone 863-271-3766

Winter Fla
City State Zip

Email callie.walker@freshfrom
florida.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Division of Plant Industry - FDACS

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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3/23/15
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Citrus Greening

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name John Barben

Job Title VP - Robert J. Barben Inc

Address 21 E Pine St.

Phone 863-443-0105

Street

City

State

Zip

Avon Park Fl. 33825

Email jpb@barbenfruit.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Self / Fla. Citrus Mutual

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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3/23/2015
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Citrus Greening

✓

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Larry T Black

Job Title President, FL Citrus Mutual

Address 1860 Pinnacle Drive
Street

Phone 863-559-0057

Lake land FL 33813
City State Zip

Email larry@peacriverpacking.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Citrus Mutual

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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Protecting Florida Citrus

Abandoned Grove Tree Removal Pilot Project



Senate Agriculture Committee
Sen. Bill Montford, Chair

Callie Walker, Bureau Chief
Division of Plant Industry
March 2015



Citrus Industry Overview

- **Citrus remains Florida's iconic crop – 68 million trees to protect**
- **Industry generates roughly 76,000 jobs**
- **Total impact of citrus industry is approximately \$9 billion**
- **Sobering statistics:**
 - **2015 orange crop will bear 103 million boxes**
 - **2003 orange crop harvested 242 million boxes**



Citrus Pests and Diseases



Citrus leaf miner damage
Citrus leaf miner insect

Damaged leaves allow diseases such as citrus canker to infect trees



Citrus canker
Bacterial disease spread by wind and rain



Citrus black spot
Fungal disease spread by wind



Citrus greening
Asian citrus psyllids (ACP)

Bacterial disease spread by ACP



FDACS Support of Citrus Industry

- **Department focused on pest and disease protection through multi-pronged approach**
- **Biggest threats are citrus greening, citrus canker and citrus black spot**
- **Holistic approach being taken**
 - **Citrus Germplasm Introduction Program**
 - **Budwood/citrus nursery industry protection**
 - **Cooperative efforts – citrus health management areas and abandoned grove initiative**
 - **Market viability**
 - **Biological control against Asian citrus psyllid**
- **Research – state has garnered \$70 million in funding over last 6 years**



- **Citrus Germplasm Introduction Program . . . *Ensuring plants disease-free start***

- Provides a means for safely introducing healthy foreign citrus varieties into Florida
- The Florida Citrus Repository at LaCrosse completed in 2014 – 25,000 sq ft facility with a capacity to release up to 30 new varieties of citrus a year

- **Citrus Budwood Registration . . . *Responding to disease pressures***

- Provides clean budwood to citrus industry
- Chiefland Budwood Facility – 80,000 sq-ft facility produced 1,316,197 bud eyes for commercial nurseries and research facilities



- **Citrus Nursery . . . *Providing clean stock for nursery growers***
 - Geographic separation of new nurseries from groves
 - Nursery stock propagated in insect-proof structures
 - 63 citrus nurseries in operation

- **Biological Control . . . *Natural solutions to pests and diseases***

- Developed mass-rearing technique for *Tamarixia* species, parasitoids of Asian citrus psyllid. Upwards of 100,000 released monthly in areas where insecticides are not being applied (residential, abandoned groves, etc.)
- Not a cure, but a valuable management tool



- **Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) . . .**
A cooperative effort
 - Department in cooperation with UF/IFAS assists industry
 - Growers work together to coordinate pest management strategies with emphasis on control of Asian citrus psyllid

- **Abandoned Grove Initiative . . .** ***Removing risk of pests and diseases***
 - Mitigate impact of citrus pests and diseases
 - Identify abandoned groves and work cooperatively with county tax assessors and property owners regarding abatement options and tax incentives

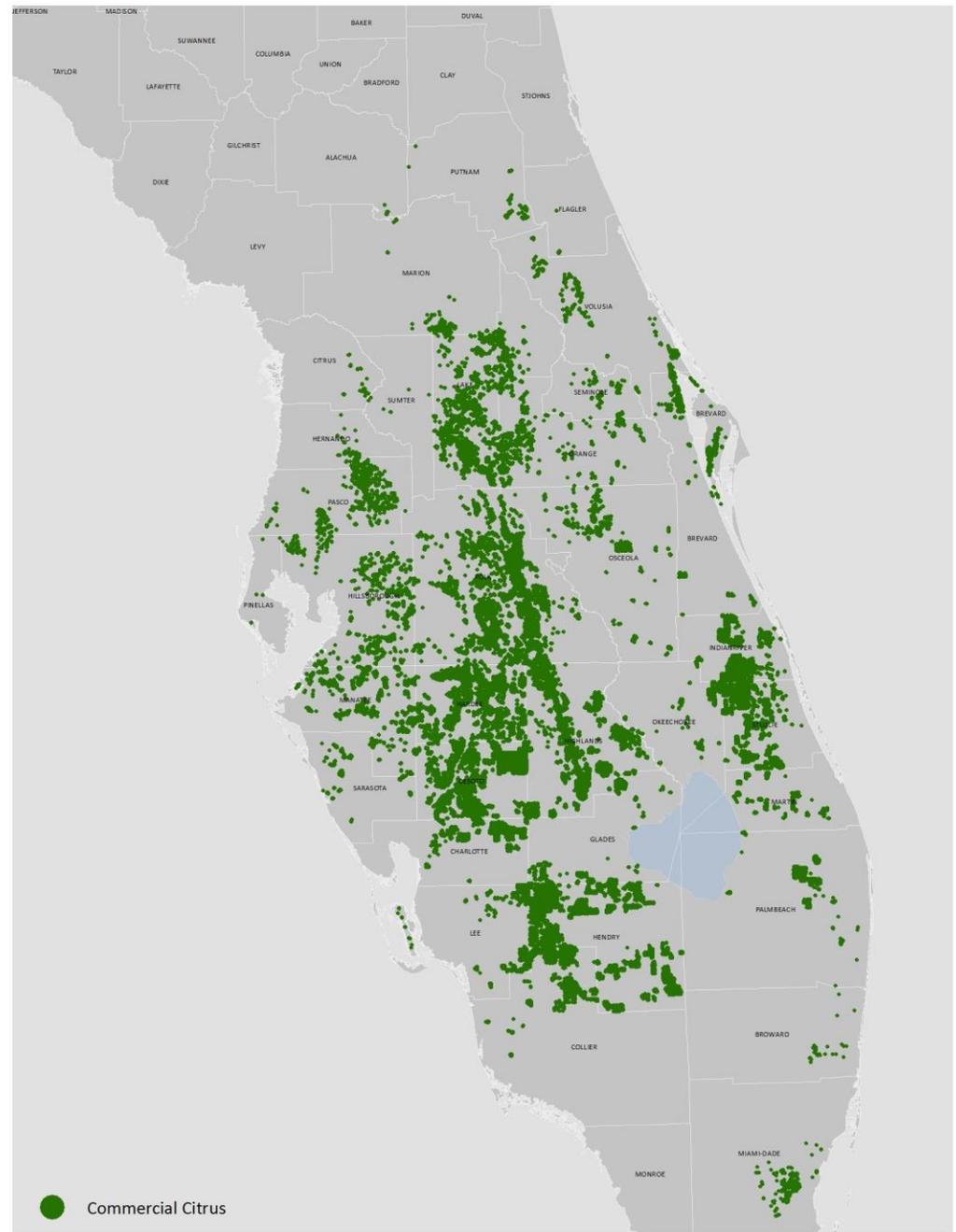


Abandoned Citrus Groves Initiative

576,000 acres of commercial citrus in Florida

100,000 acres of abandoned citrus groves in Florida

Need to remove the disease pressure to protect healthy groves



Definition of Abandoned Grove

- ✓ **No commercial fruit harvest during last two seasons**
- ✓ **No production care during past two years, including pest and weed control**
- ✓ **Grove use transferred to other use (i.e., real estate, planted pines, etc.)**





Citrus Health Response Program Update Abandoned Grove Initiative

A publication of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

Recognizing the pest and disease risks associated with abandoned citrus groves, the state has initiated a comprehensive plan for their removal and destruction. This initiative will help mitigate the impact of exotic citrus pests and diseases (namely citrus greening and citrus canker) by identifying abandoned groves and working cooperatively with county tax assessor offices and property owners regarding abatement options and tax incentives which will foster removal of these reservoirs of infection.

Key components:

- Catalog all abandoned groves throughout the state
- Map all high-risk abandoned groves
- Contact abandoned grove owners to ask their intentions for properties
- Inform owners if their groves are not kept in production, they will not be considered part of CHRP.
- Inform owners if they eliminate live citrus trees in abandoned groves, it is considered a bona fide agricultural practice and will remain in compliance with CHRP guidelines, thus maintaining their agriculture exempt status.

Agricultural land tax exemption – FDACS' interpretation and position on Section 193.461(7), Florida Statutes, is that if you have a valid CHRP compliance agreement and are in good standing, then the property covered by the agreement is considered in agricultural use, thus for tax purposes is eligible for agricultural land use classification. County property appraisers in citrus-growing areas are developing policies that comply with Section 193.461(7), Florida Statutes.

Property owners with abandoned groves should contact their local CHRP office for more information (see back). Proper documentation is required by county tax assessor offices for exemption, so please contact your local CHRP office for details. If you know of abandoned groves in your area, please report the property to your local CHRP office.

Abandoned Grove Defined:

- No commercial fruit harvest during last two seasons
- No production care during the past two years, including weed control and mowing
- Grove use transferred to other uses (pine or livestock)



Abandoned Citrus Grove Initiative

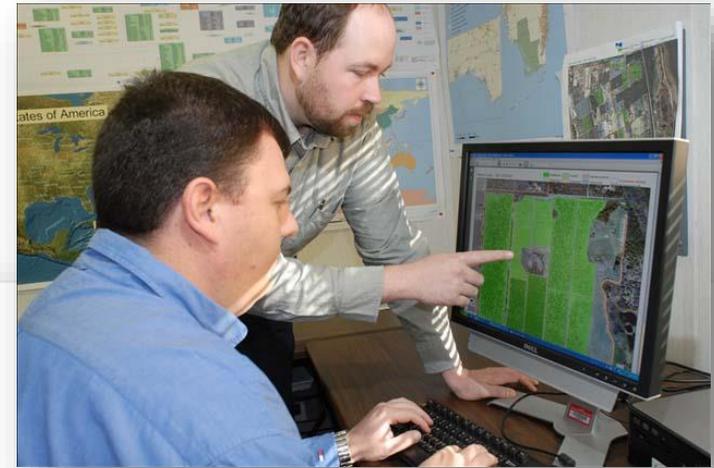
Program Objectives

- **Remove the inoculum or disease pressure**
- Mitigate impact of citrus pests and diseases
- **Emphasis on citrus greening/Asian citrus psyllid, citrus canker/leaf miner, and citrus black spot**
- Identify abandoned groves and work cooperatively with county tax assessors and property owners regarding abatement options and tax incentives



Abandoned Grove Initiative Efforts to Date

- Catalog all abandoned groves throughout state
- **Map all high-risk abandoned groves**
- Contact abandoned grove owners to ask their intentions for properties
- **Inform owners if their groves are not kept in production, they will not be considered part of CHRP**
- Inform owners if they eliminate live citrus trees in abandoned groves, and are in compliance with CHRP guidelines, may maintain their agriculture exempt status
- **Explore funding sources for voluntary tree removal**



Farm Bill/HLB Multi-Agency Coordination Group Funding

- Field test antimicrobials that have shown promise in combating HLB
- Deploy large scale thermo-therapy study to test whether heating trees to 120 degrees for up to 48 hours will kill HLB bacterium
- **Pilot project using best techniques to remove trees from abandoned groves**



Photo: Courtesy ARS



Green Energy Harvesting



Abandoned Grove Pilot Study Site Selection Process

- Selected abandoned groves identified within the FDACS Pest Incident Control System (PICS)
- Through GIS, overlaid the abandoned groves into the State's Citrus Health Management Area's.
- Incorporated the average Asian citrus psyllid counts over three-week cycles performed by FDACS and USDA survey crews
- Included a three-mile arc

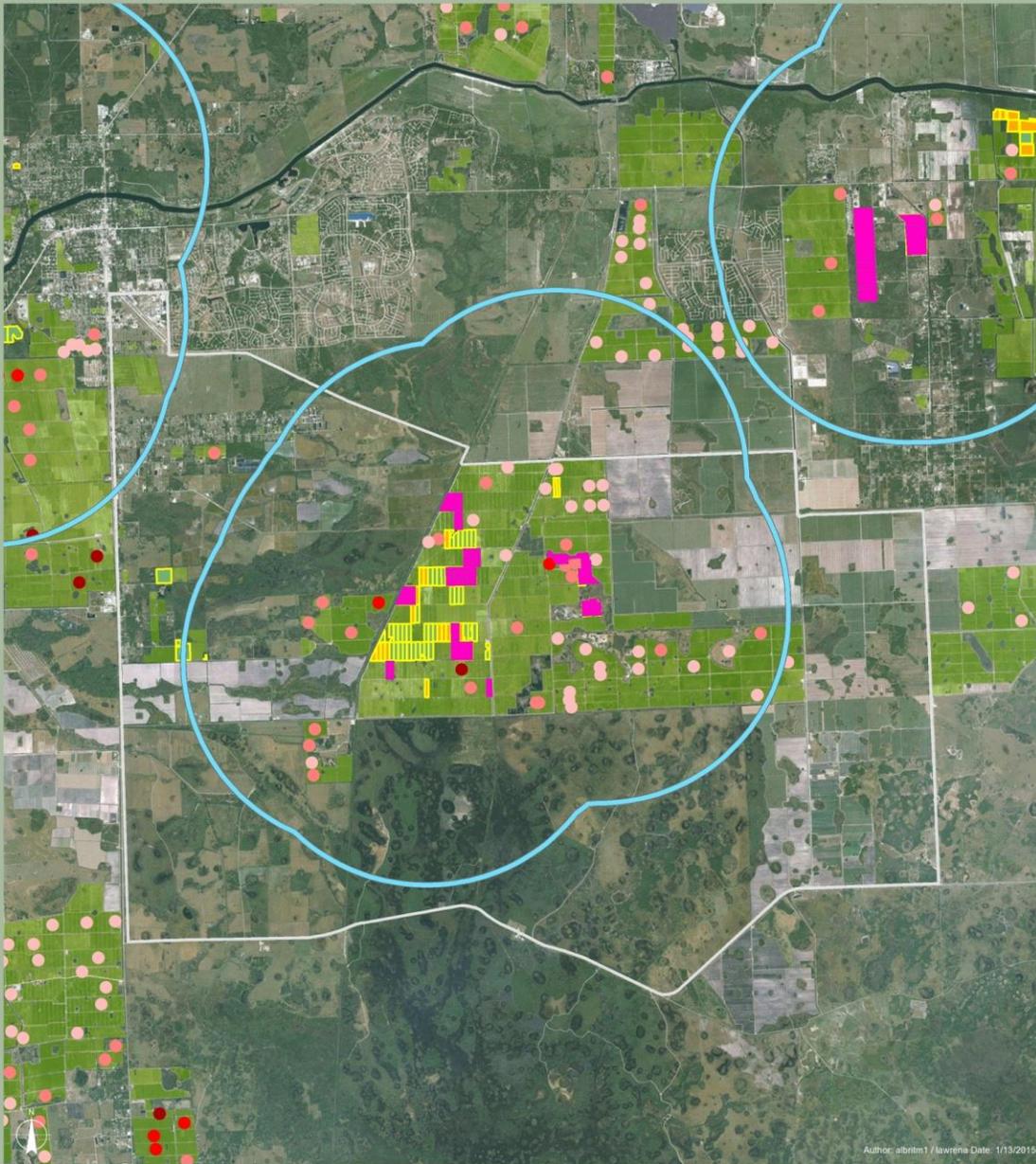


Abandoned Grove Pilot Study Site Selection Process

- **Must be located within a CHMA**
- **Must be located next to, or near, a well-managed commercial grove or a recently planted grove**
- **Abandoned grove properties would still have flushing citrus trees with limited understory**



Citrus Health Response Plan (CHRP)



Gutwein CHMA

ACP count average cycles 49-53

- 0
- 1 - 18
- 19 - 38
- > 38

- Selected Parcels
- 3 Mile Buffer of Selected Abandoned
- Selected Abandoned

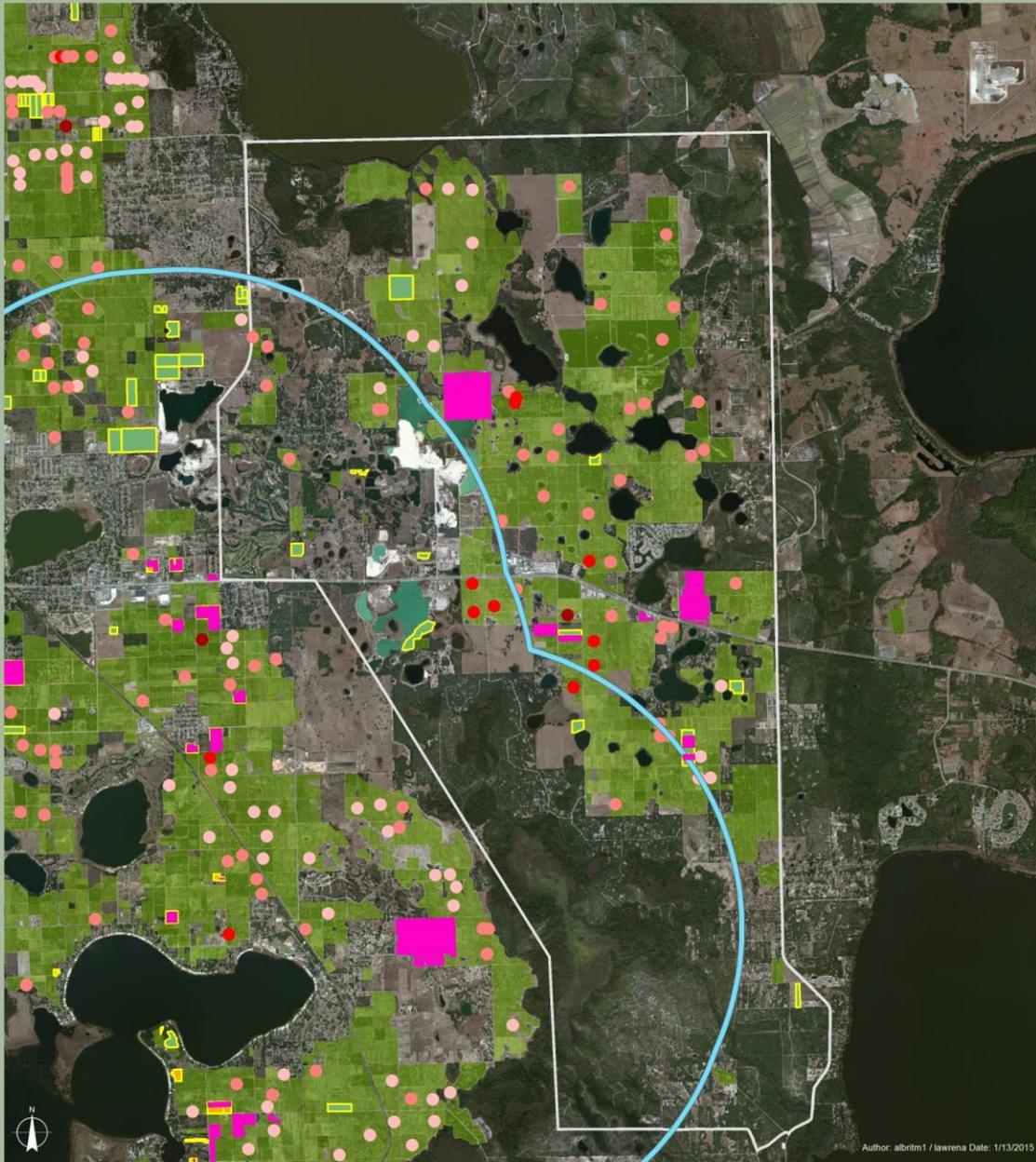
- Abandoned
- CHMA
- Commercial citrus



Selection Map

Gutwein CHMA

Citrus Health Response Plan (CHRP)



Hesperides CHMA

ACP count average cycles 49-53

- 0
- 1 - 18
- 19 - 38
- > 38

- Selected Parcels
- 3 Mile Buffer of Selected Abandoned
- Selected Abandoned

- Abandoned
- CHMA
- Commercial citrus



Selection Map

Hesperides CHMA

Abandoned Grove Pilot Project Implementation

- **\$1,000,000 cost to remove 3,000 acres**
- **93 strategically located parcels selected for tree removal in Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Polk and St. Lucie counties**
- **Work begun March 2015**
- **Work scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2015**



**Contact awarded to
Green Energy Harvesting**



Citrus Health Response Plan (CHRP)

Abandoned Grove Removal Project
Region: North



North Removal Sites

0 10 20 Miles

○ Proposed Selected Parcels* ■ Commercial citrus

***Selected parcels are subject to change.**



Citrus Health Response Plan (CHRP)

Abandoned Grove Removal Project
Region: South



South Removal Sites

0 10 20 Miles

● Proposed Selected Parcels*

■ Commercial citrus

*Selected parcels are subject to change.



Green Energy Harvesting

- Co-developed bio-energy baling system technology that capitalizes on wood waste projects
- Bio-baler is a steerable and highly maneuverable self-contained unit that sequentially collects, shreds, screens and bales biomass in a single rugged 15-ton machine
- As a bi-product, produces and sells a high quality, chipped and baled product that can be used as:

Boiler Fuel



Fiber Feedstock



Decorative Mulch



GEH Chipping and Baling



Lake Placid, Highland County Site Stats

- 130 acres removed as of 3/20/15
- 4 machines averaging 10-12 acres daily
- 1 acre produces between one and two bales
- Bales produce approximately 1 ton of biomass
- Citrus is excellent source of energy – high BTUs and clean





Finished Product

Threat of disease spread removed – ready for reuse.



Next Steps

A final assessment of the pilot project will determine future funding requests.



Thank you!

Callie Walker, Bureau Chief
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FL 33881

Office Phone: 863-298-3000
Cell Phone: 863-271-3766



CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301
Caption: Senate Agriculture

Case:
Judge:

Type:

Started: 3/23/2015 4:03:33 PM
Ends: 3/23/2015 5:17:57 PM **Length:** 01:14:25

4:03:39 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Montford
4:03:52 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Joyce Butler
4:04:03 PM Quorum present
4:04:10 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:04:26 PM Tab 1, 902 introduced by Chair Montford
4:04:46 PM Explanation of SB 902, Hemp Production by Senator Clemens
4:06:43 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:06:49 PM Question from Senator Sobel
4:06:57 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:07:44 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sobel
4:07:51 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:08:20 PM Question from Senator Grimsley
4:08:25 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:09:03 PM Question from Chair Montford
4:09:13 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:10:28 PM Follow-up question from Chair Montford
4:10:34 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:11:15 PM Additional question from Chair Montford
4:11:21 PM Response from Senator Clemens
4:12:18 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:13:10 PM Speaker Robert Clayton, Mechanical Engineer (Retired), Heme Industries Association
4:17:39 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:18:02 PM Comments from Mr. Clayton
4:18:15 PM Question from Senator Grimsley
4:18:22 PM Response from Mr. Clayton
4:19:42 PM Question from Senator Sobel
4:19:50 PM Response from Mr. Clayton
4:20:20 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sobel
4:20:26 PM Response from Mr. Clayton
4:21:16 PM Speaker Ethel Rowland, Legislative Director, Florida Cannabis Action Network
4:22:28 PM Speaker Michael Krehl, Liaison, speaking in support of bill
4:25:25 PM Speaker Kevin Koelemij, Licensed Real Estate Associate speaking for the bill
4:29:44 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:29:55 PM Question from Senator Sobel
4:30:02 PM Response from Mr. Koelemij
4:30:15 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sobel
4:30:23 PM Response from Mr. Koelemij
4:30:43 PM Additional question/comments from Senator Sobel
4:31:17 PM Response from Mr. Koelemij
4:31:40 PM Ron Watson, Lobbyist, Watson Strategies waives in support
4:31:44 PM Savana Osterbye waives in support
4:32:11 PM Richmond Abellera waives in support
4:32:20 PM Canna Krehl waives in support
4:32:27 PM Jessey Krehl waives in support
4:32:32 PM Jeff Sharkey, CAG, Medical Marijuana Business Association waives in support
4:32:51 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:33:08 PM Comments from Senator Bullard
4:33:32 PM Comments from Senator Sobel
4:33:53 PM Closing by Senator Clemens
4:34:08 PM Roll call on SB 902 by Administrative Assistant, Joyce Butler
4:34:16 PM SB 902 reported favorably
4:34:27 PM Per Chair Montford, for the record Senator Dean will be late for the meeting

4:34:36 PM Introduction of Tab 2 by Chair Montford
4:35:40 PM Presentation by Ms. Callie Walker, Bureau Chief - PE&C, Division of Plant Industry - IDACS -
Continuation of Discussion of Citrus Greening, including possible solutions and funding mechanisms
4:45:33 PM Comments from Chair Montford
4:45:51 PM Questions from Senator Galvano
4:45:59 PM Response from Ms. Walker
4:47:08 PM Question from Senator Sobel
4:47:15 PM Response from Ms. Walker
4:47:35 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sobel
4:47:43 PM Response from Ms. Walker
4:48:28 PM Additional question from Senator Sobel
4:48:42 PM Response from Ms. Walker
4:50:15 PM Additional question from Senator Sobel
4:50:23 PM Response from Ms. Walker
4:51:08 PM Comments from Chair Montford, Introduction of Larry Black and John Barben
4:51:33 PM Speaker Larry Black, President, Florida Citrus Mutual
4:57:22 PM Speaker John Barben, Vice President, Robert J. Barben, Inc.
5:00:55 PM Question from Chair Montford
5:01:05 PM Response from Mr. Barben
5:02:02 PM Additional comments/questions from Chair Montford
5:02:12 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:04:31 PM Question from Senator Sobel
5:04:43 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:04:55 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sobel
5:05:07 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:05:36 PM Additional question from Senator Sobel
5:05:47 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:06:04 PM Question from Senator Galvano
5:06:26 PM Response from Mr. Barben
5:08:06 PM Follow-up question from Senator Galvano
5:08:33 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:11:00 PM Question/comments from Senator Dean
5:11:28 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:12:20 PM Question from Chair Montford
5:12:25 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:13:54 PM Comments from Chair Montford
5:14:07 PM Response from Mr. Barben
5:14:56 PM Response from Mr. Black
5:15:44 PM Response from Ms. Walker
5:17:28 PM Comments from Chair Montford
5:17:43 PM Senator Dean moves to be recorded as voting in the affirmative on SB 902
5:17:50 PM Senator Galvano moves to rise