



**Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda
Florida House of Representatives
District 9**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2009

Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda
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Florida Losing Workforce to Other States

Florida lost almost 9,000 jobs, more than \$64 million in lost wages, and \$124 million that was not spent with Florida's businesses because it did not invest competitively in film, entertainment and television production in the past year. At least 24 projects were turned away that would have kept folks in the industry working in Florida instead of leaving the state for lucrative jobs elsewhere.

Speaking to the Florida Film Production Coalition in Miami on Saturday, State Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee) told more than 300 attendees: "Florida is losing a vibrant and essentially recession proof industry to states like Louisiana, Georgia, Michigan and Massachusetts. We are failing to invest in a clean industry with high wage jobs. We are losing productive, creative, highly educated citizens who want to stay in Florida, to these other states. If we don't do better we will not only lose you, but your buying power and the tax revenue you generate."

42 other states currently offer tax credits to film makers. States are competing heavily for an industry that is clean, has a well educated workforce, and is particularly known for the spread of its economic impact throughout a community to include many other businesses like caterers, restaurants, florists, building trades, grocery stores, and hoteliers.

A study by the University of West Florida shows that for every dollar Florida invests in film incentives, it receives a \$1.44 in additional tax revenue. "I don't know any business that wouldn't spend a dollar to make a dollar and a half in return," says Rehwinkel Vasilinda. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to find a way to help the film, entertainment and television industry grow jobs for all of Florida."

The freshman legislator is hosting a reception for lawmakers on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 to focus on the film, entertainment and television industry as a way to help Florida work its way out of a down economy and have a stronger economic future.

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