



# Florida House of Representatives

## Representative Jennifer Carroll, District 13

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October 13, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor  
PL05 The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Crist,

As the Chairperson of the House Economic Development Policy Committee, it has come to my attention that the process where the Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) recently appropriated funds in the amount of \$20 million to Mr. John Textor for expanding a digital design company in Florida may not have been properly executed. Additionally, there is an appearance that Mr. Textor may have been deceptive with his application in that his company did not expand an existing operation, but created an entirely new business that was not related to the intent of his original application.

Governor, with the down turn in Florida's economy where many businesses are in dire straits for financial assistance to keep businesses open and retain jobs in Florida, this state cannot be perceived as giving money for new business start ups. It is very concerning for one company vice others to acquire public funds to open a new business.

- ✦ *Economic Development Policy Committee - Chairman*
- ✦ *Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council*
- ✦ *Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee*
- ✦ *Energy & Utilities Policy Committee*      ✦ *Policy Council*

Governor, as overseers of the state's coffers, we must be very prudent with the use of public dollars. I am asking for an immediate investigation of the following:

1. How did a single entity get approval of public dollars from OTTED to open a startup company?
2. What application process did OTTED use to approve Mr. Textor's request?
3. Was Mr. Textor's business history background thoroughly researched, was his prior business practices and financial history properly vetted?
4. What recourse is in place to recoup public dollars or fine Mr. Textor if bait and switch practices or if deceptive practices were used to obtain these funds?
5. Was a consideration made by OTTED to use these funds to support several companies in Florida to expand their business vice distributing it to only one company?

Governor, your immediate attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Carroll  
Representative

Cc: Speaker Larry Cretul  
President Jeff Atwarter  
Representative Adam Hasner  
Representative Dave Murzin