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January 31, 2014

The Honorable MaryLynn Magar
The Florida House of Representative
402 South Monroe Street, Room 1003 Cap
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 689, Exemption/Medical Gas Permit Trade Secrets

Dear Representative Magar:

We have carefully reviewed HB 689, which provides an exemption from public records requirements for trade secret information submitted to Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DPBR) as part of a permit application for a medical gas wholesale distributor, manufacturer, or retail establishment or obtained by DBPR during its inspection process.

We do not object to the purpose of the bill, Representative Magar, but we do believe the exemption as drafted is entirely too broad. Instead, we suggest the language be amended to more closely track other trade secret exemptions currently in law – HB 157, filed this session, provides a good example.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. Should you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

cc: The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, The Florida Senate
Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Sam Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Bob Gabordi, President, Florida Society of News Editors