



May 12, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Office of the Governor  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: VETO REQUEST SB 2500 Budget Appropriations

Dear Governor Scott:

We are writing to respectfully request that you veto SB 2500, the 2017 budget appropriations bill. Our concerns relate only to the lack of transparency in the process by which major policy and appropriation decisions were made. We are not objecting to any of the substantive programs and issues.

According to all reports, the 2017 budget and associated programs were largely decided by legislative leaders in telephone calls and private meetings in chamber bubbles. The secretive process precluded any opportunity for public oversight or input on major policy and appropriation decisions that directly affect each and every one of us. Alarming, local government officials were also shut out of the process, as were many legislators who were ultimately asked to approve a budget decided in a manner closed even to them.

Our citizens deserve the respect and the commitment of our elected leaders to uphold our Florida Sunshine laws, a 33 years old tradition and benchmark of good government.

We ask that you veto SB 2500 and allow the Legislature to come back to Tallahassee to reconsider the budget in a more open and transparent manner during a special session.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation  
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Gil Thelen, Executive Director, Florida Society of News Editors

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