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STEVE CRISAFULLI IS LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Tallahassee, FL – State Representative Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) is this year’s recipient of the Florida Forestry Association’s Legislator of the Year Award. Each year the Association recognizes a deserving House and Senate member for their support of issues important to the growers and users of Florida’s forest resources. The award was presented at the Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting in St. Augustine on September 8, 2011.

Before presenting the Award, Association President Bryan Olmert said, “Representative Steve Crisafulli has earned the reputation “a true friend of forestry” through his promotion and protection of Florida’s largest agriculture business. This past session, Rep. Crisafulli was our go-to guy in the House, influencing every piece of legislation affecting forestry and agriculture. He also led the charge in the creation of the “Friends of Agriculture,” an unofficial Agricultural Caucus in the legislature. He is very deserving of our legislator of the year award,” Olmert concluded.

“Representative Crisafulli recognizes the importance of generational heritage in agribusiness and how significant that is to forest landowners, “ says Jeff Doran, Executive Vice President, Florida Forestry Association. “As a manager in his families fourth generation ag business, he understands the importance of keeping working farms and forestlands working and just how important conservation and wise use of our natural resources are to Florida’s economy and environment,” Doran concluded.

On accepting the award, Representative Crisafulli said “forests are essential to Florida and along with other agriculture commodities provide a stable economic foundation for many communities throughout the state. We must all continue to work together to protect the agricultural heritage that is so important to our quality of life,” he said.

Entering his second term, Representative Crisafulli was appointed Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. Since first elected in 2008, he is recognized as leader and staunch supporter of issues involving agriculture and private property rights.

For more information contact Florida Forestry Association at info@forestfla.org or visit www.floridaforest.org

PHOTO CAPTION: State Representative Steve Crisafulli (left) is honored with the Legislator of the Year Award by Florida Forestry Association President Bryan Olmert.