

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Disclosure Form
As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g) and
the Rules of the Committee on Natural Resources

Committee on Natural Resources budget oversight hearing on the “*Obama Administration’s De Facto Moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico: Community and Economic Impacts*”

Wednesday, March 16th 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Hearing Room Longworth House Office Building

For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

1. Name: Keith Overton

2. Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing:
 1. President - TradeWinds Island Resorts, St. Pete Beach
 2. Immediate Past Chairman of the Board - Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
 3. Board of Directors – Visit Florida

Business Address: TradeWinds Island Resorts 5500 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

3. Business Email Address: [Information redacted for privacy]

5. Business Phone Number: 727-363-2237 [Information redacted for privacy]

Name/Organization: Keith Overton President - TradeWinds Island Resorts, St. Pete Beach
Immediate Past Chairman of the Board - Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
Board of Directors – Visit Florida

Committee on Natural Resources

Title/Date of Hearing: Budget oversight hearing on the “*Obama Administration’s De Facto Moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico: Community and Economic Impacts*”

- a. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

Bachelors Degree in Hospitality Management
Master’s Degree in International Hospitality Management

- b. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

Certified Hotel Administrator, American Hotel & Lodging Association

- c. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences that relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

See attached bio

- d. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior (and /or other agencies invited) that you have received in the current year and previous four years, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract.

None

- e. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by you against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed.

None

- f. Any other information you wish to convey that might aid the Members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony.

The Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association is among the most influential trade associations in Florida. The association was established in 1946 to represent the restaurant industry. Since that time, the scope of FRLA’s representation has expanded to include the entire hospitality industry including lodging establishments, restaurants and thousands of suppliers to the industry. The association counts among its members some of the largest businesses in each of these categories.

The power and influence of FRLA is indisputable with a legislative track record to back it up. Led by CEO Carol Dover and an active Board of Directors, FLRA has been effective in influencing legislation that has saved the industry \$1.2 billion in taxes and fees over the past 10 years.

Florida’s hospitality industry represents:

- A 60 billion dollar industry

- **20% of Florida's economy**
- **A billion dollars in sales tax revenue**
- **Almost one million employees - Florida's largest employer.**

With numerous local chapters and dual membership in the National Restaurant Association and American Hotel & Lodging Association FRLA members are offered unlimited opportunity for involvement. Association members enjoy a variety of benefits including discounts on products, services and training; free tickets to the annual trade show; accessible insurance; state, local and federal government representation; networking opportunities, special events including seminars, golf and fishing tournaments, parties and much more. The association is committed to safe-guarding the needs of the hospitality industry and improving the business climate.

VISIT FLORIDA is the official tourism marketing corporation for the State of Florida. VISIT FLORIDA is not a government agency, but rather a not-for-profit corporation that carries out the work of the Florida Commission on Tourism. Created by the Florida legislature in 1996 as a public/private partnership, VISIT FLORIDA's receives state funding from a portion of the two-dollar-per-day rental surcharge and general revenue.

VISIT FLORIDA markets to consumers, both in the U.S. and abroad, works with the world's major travel journalists, represents the state at domestic and international travel trade shows and promotes the state to travel agents, tour operators and consumers all over the world. VISIT FLORIDA has numerous programs to help the state's many tourism businesses and destinations market themselves more effectively and affordably.

VISIT FLORIDA's research department compiles the state's official air and non-air visitor estimates, tracks tourism trends and conducts surveys on the effectiveness of advertising and marketing efforts.

VISIT FLORIDA employs a staff of 98 at the organization's headquarters in Tallahassee, its five Official Florida Welcome Centers and a dedicated office in Miami serving Latin America. VISIT FLORIDA also has three field offices in Tampa, Jacksonville and Orlando, and has international contractors in the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and China.

VISIT FLORIDA also operates the state's five Official Florida Welcome Centers at I-10 near Pensacola, U.S. 231, I-75, I-95, and the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee.

In addition, for witnesses representing organizations:

g. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization(s) on whose behalf you are testifying.

Immediate Past Chairman of the Board - Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

h. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior (and /or other agencies invited) that were received in the current year and previous four years by the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract for each of the organization(s).

None

i. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by the organization(s) you represent at the hearing against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were

filed for each of the organization(s).

None

j. A list of any countries from which the organization(s) you represent at the hearing have received foreign donations and the total amount of donations received from each country, for the current year and the previous four years, by each organization.

None

k. For tax-exempt organizations and non-profit organizations, copies of the three most recent public IRS Form 990s (including Form 990-PF, Form 990-N, and Form 990-EZ) for each of the organization(s) you represent at the hearing (not including any contributor names and addresses or any information withheld from public inspection by the Secretary of the Treasury under 26 U.S.C. 6104)).

NA