

Thanks for that kind introduction, Karen. I'm delighted to be here at this invitational forum for the business community of Florida on global warming.

I've come to believe that global warming is both a big threat and a big opportunity – a threat of disturbing proportions if we don't begin addressing it very soon, and an immense opportunity if we do. Today we'll be looking at both the challenges and the opportunities.

I love to sail on Florida's waters, and to stroll its beaches. So do millions of visitors each year, making

Florida one of the world's top tourist destinations – and fueling our state's economy. In just a few minutes, Dr. Bill Chameides [Sha-MEE-dehs] of Environmental Defense will talk about how global warming threatens those resources and our coastlines – and what can be done about it.

This Forum occurs at an auspicious time. Global warming is now a high-profile issue in the business and national policy arena. Just two days ago, a coalition of some of America's biggest companies including Florida Power & Light and leading environmental groups released joint recommendations on a framework for

global-warming legislation.

There are many signs that the U.S. Congress is getting ready to act as well, as our second speaker Tucker Eskew will discuss.

So what's the role for Florida, and for its business community? Well, first and foremost, after this Forum I hope you'll agree that global warming is a problem that does need to be addressed, rapidly, vigorously, and effectively. Florida's federal legislators need to hear that they should support and take leadership roles on global warming. Some of you may remember that I am no fan of taxes. While a few people have urged a

carbon tax as a way to approach this problem, Congress's attention is focusing on a better approach called "cap and trade." We'll hear more about that from Tucker shortly.

What's the second role for Florida? To position itself not only to respond, but actually how to profit from, the opportunities created by a cap and trade system. We haven't talked much about this in Florida, but the discussion has been getting underway in other states. More than a dozen states have completed or are well along with developing specific plans to reduce their global-warming emissions, and to grow their

economies in the process. They are doing this by developing new industries in biofuels, in new energy sources, in energy efficiency, and a whole array of others. Like those other states, we need to gather key business leaders – people like yourselves – and other stakeholders, and ask that they roll up their sleeves and take a hard look at the options and opportunities in Florida for reducing emissions of global warming pollutants.

Today is the beginning of that process – learning about the problem and the wide variety of potential solutions. Thank you for joining us today.