



FLORIDA GOVERNOR
Charlie Crist

44TH GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SECRETARY MIKE SOLE

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“For more than 20 years, Secretary Sole has shown tremendous leadership in safeguarding one of Florida’s greatest assets – our beautiful natural environment. During his time at the helm of the Department of Environmental Protection, he has championed Florida’s Everglades restoration, including expanding our efforts to the northernmost parts of an ecosystem that is essential to the water quality of millions of Floridians, as well as the vital estuary of Florida Bay.

“Mike has also been instrumental in Florida’s first efforts to address climate change by increasing state government’s energy efficiency and reliance on alternative fuels such as solar energy and ethanol. He also worked to pass groundbreaking bipartisan energy legislation that set Florida on its first steps to diversify the state’s energy sources, promote energy conservation and efficiency, and spur economic growth.

“As the point person for Florida’s response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Mike has demonstrated unwavering commitment and invaluable insight into what actions must be taken. Now that the well is close to being capped permanently, we wish Mike well as he leaves next month to pursue other opportunities. We wish him the very best in his new endeavors.”

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today appointed Mimi A. Drew as Interim Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, effective September 10, 2010. She has served as the agency’s deputy secretary of regulatory programs since 2007, and previously as director of the division of water resource management since January 1995. With more than 30 years of technical, supervisory, and administrative experience with Florida environmental issues, she received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida, as well as a master’s degree in environmental engineering and sciences.

The Department of Environmental Protection is the lead agency in state government for environmental management and

stewardship and is one of the more diverse agencies in state government, protecting our air, water, and land. The Department is divided into three primary areas: Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation and Planning and Management. Florida's environmental priorities include restoring America's Everglades, improving air quality, restoring and protecting the water quality in our springs, lakes, rivers and coastal waters, conserving environmentally-sensitive lands and providing citizens and visitors with recreational opportunities, now and in the future.

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