**FRESHMAN DECLARATION**
We, the Republican members of The Florida House, having been elected to serve our freshman term, hereby affirm and declare the following on the date of August 17, 2015:

**CONDEMNATION:**

We, members of the Republican freshman class of 2014, having served one session in office fully recognize the immense responsibility of choosing our Speaker. We further recognize the responsibility and authority entrusted to the Speaker of the House over us as individuals and most importantly over the future direction of our great state. Our brief experience as candidates, and now as elected members of the Florida House of Representatives, has served as an opportunity to reflect on the process in which we select the person with that immense responsibility. Such a process requires careful and thoughtful analysis in which an informed decision and consensus can only be reached when given the best information possible. No one seeking such office should stand in opposition to this fundamental truth.

The current process is flawed and is in need of reform. This current process is not merit based, it is inefficient, and is not in the best interest of the State of Florida nor the Chamber. Instead of it being an informed discussion among members, currently it is riddled with the influence of donors, special interests, lobbyists, regional alliances and consultants. These outside influences are putting political pressure on potential future members to select a Speaker long before they are even elected to public office manifested by pledges secured by the "honor of their word" while holding these future members hostage to this flawed process. In many cases these outside influences take sides in primaries and pit Republican candidate against Republican candidate in an effort to control the outcome of the selection of Speaker and, as collateral damage, injuring a future Republican member in the process.

**DECLARATION OF MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2014:**

We, the undersigned, therefore declare from this day forward that the current selection process is inconsistent with our shared beliefs and in need of reform. We further declare that such reform should be the product of an open and collaborative effort among *all members of our class*. Our reforms will yield a majority that will strengthen our Chamber and our class, protecting its membership from undue influence and outside pressures, while simultaneously reforming the process for all future legislatures.

We, the undersigned, hereby call for a conference to be convened, at a date and time to be determined, to consider creating a new process by which we choose the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and request that our reforms be adopted by the Republican caucus. Said conference shall be limited to the freshman Republican members. A simple majority will constitute a quorum.

 Danny Burgess Brad Drake Chris Latvala

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 Chris Sprowls Jennifer Sullivan Blaise Ingoglia

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 Bryan Avila Jay Trumbull Mike Hill

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