

GOOD MORNING!

MY NAME IS JACK OSTERHOLT AND I AM THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.

ON BEHALF OF MAYOR CARLOS GIMENEZ, IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME THE 27TH ANNUAL WORLD L.P. GAS FORUM AND 29TH AIGLP CONGRESS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

IN CHOOSING MIAMI, YOU HAVE COME TO A CITY THAT IS MULTI-LINGUAL, MULTI-CULTURAL, AND HIGHLY DIVERSE...

A COMMUNITY MADE UP OF OVER 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE PLACES IN THE ENTIRE NATION; OVER 50% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

WE HAVE GONE FROM BEING THE TRADITIONAL GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND WE ARE BECOMING THE GATEWAY TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND BEYOND.

AS SUCH, OUR COMMUNITY IS KNOWN AS A COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL HUB, TOPPING \$93 BILLION IN TOTAL TRADE FOR LAST YEAR.

WE RANK THIRD BEHIND LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT PARTNERS, AND WE HAVE THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN BANKS OUTSIDE OF MANHATTAN.

OVER 200 INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES CHOSE TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS FROM MIAMI AND WE'RE HOME TO OVER 100 INTERNATIONAL CONSULATES, TRADE OFFICES AND CHAMBERS THAT SUPPORT THE WORLDWIDE FLOW OF GOODS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

MIAMI'S REAL ESTATE MARKET IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST IN THE WORLD, AND MANY OF THE BUILDINGS YOU SEE AROUND YOU WERE NOT HERE TEN YEARS AGO.

WE'RE ALSO LEADERS IN "NEW ECONOMY" SECTORS, SUCH AS HEALTHCARE, AVIATION, AND TECHNOLOGY START-UPS.

ALL OF THIS ACTIVITY COMBINED ALLOWS US TO BE LEADERS IN JOB CREATION AND FOR OUR METRO ECONOMY TO GROW AT A RATE THAT OUTPACES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

IT ALSO MEANS THAT MORE PEOPLE ARE MOVING TO MIAMI.

THIS GROWTH IN POPULATION MATCHES THE WORLDWIDE TREND TOWARD GREATER URBANIZATION. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, OVER HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION NOW LIVES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS, AND THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE.

WITH THIS GROWTH, WE ARE CHALLENGED BY HOW TO PROVIDE GOODS AND SERVICES TO AN EVER GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE – AND THIS INCLUDES MEETING AN EVER INCREASING NEED FOR ENERGY.

WE DO THIS AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE VERY AWARE OF OUR DELICATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE EFFECTS OUR ACTIONS MAY HAVE ON CHANGES TO OUR CLIMATE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN A COMMUNITY LIKE MIAMI-DADE WHICH IS RIGHT ON THE WATER AND THEREFORE VERY AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES POSED BY SEA LEVEL RISE.

IN THIS WORLD, GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY MUST SEEK INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE ISSUES, AND THIS INCLUDES SEEKING WAYS TO INCREASE OUR USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS.

WITH EVERY NEW BUILDING THAT GOES UP IN OUR URBAN CORE, WITH EVERY NEW BUSINESS THAT STARTS, WITH EVERY NEW PERSON THAT MOVES TO OUR COMMUNITY, THE NEED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY GROWS.

FOR US, WHEN YOU MANAGE A 25,000 PERSON GOVERNMENT WITH A \$6 BILLION BUDGET THAT DELIVERS MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO OVER 2.5 MILLION RESIDENTS AND MILLIONS MORE VISITORS...

AND YOU DO THIS WITH EVER SHRINKING TAX RESOURCES...

THE NEED TO DIVERSIFY YOUR OWN ENERGY SOURCE PORTFOLIO BECOMES PARAMOUNT.

IN MIAMI-DADE GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE DIVERSIFIED OUR FUEL PORTFOLIO TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE FUELS.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS ALREADY, WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY OUR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN IN SEEKING NEW AND ENVIROMENTALLY CLEANER SOURCES OF FUEL AND ENERGY.

THE COUNTY HAS SEVERAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES THAT HAVE HELPED THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGION REDUCE OUR EMISSION OF CARBON DIOXIDE POLLUTANTS BY APPROXIMATELY 3,500 TONS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

WE OPERATE THE LARGEST MUNICIPAL HYBRID FLEET IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE THIRD LARGEST MUNICIPAL HYBRID FLEET IN THE UNITED STATES.

GREENPRINT, OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, DIRECTS US TO EXPLORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LARGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE FUEL AND ENERGY PARKS WITH INCENTIVES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE.

IT ALSO SEEKS INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FUEL INDUSTRIES, ASKING FOR LEGISLATION TO REMOVE OBSTACLES AND STIMULATE THE INDUSTRY.

ALREADY, WE USE LPG FOR OUR GENERATORS, FORKLIFTS, AND FOR LAWN MOWERS THAT TRIM THE GRASS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY, TO INCLUDE 12,000 ACRES IN MORE THAN 280 PARKS.

WE ARE ALSO SEEKING PARTNERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO JOIN US IN THE DESIGN / BUILD OF NEW FUELING STATIONS WHERE OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS CAN PURCHASE ALTERNATIVE FUELS FOR THEIR OWN VEHICLES.

AND, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, WE WILL HOLD AN INDUSTRY DAY TO SOLICIT INPUT AND DISCUSSION ON WAYS WE CAN POTENTIALLY USE LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS AT OUR SEAPORT FOR SEAFARING VESSELS, CARGO SHIPS, AND OTHERS.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE WAYS WE ARE MOVING TOWARD DIVERSIFYING OUR FUEL PORTFOLIO AND DELIVERING BETTER, CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT FUEL OPTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

BUT AS WITH MOST ANYTHING, THE PUBLIC SECTOR CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH...

WHILE WE IN GOVERNMENT CAN CERTAINLY USE OUR BULLY PULPIT AND PURCHASING POWER TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, IT IS ULTIMATELY UP TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONTINUE THE INNOVATIONS THAT WILL EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES.

THIS IS WHY YOUR GATHERING HERE IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE.

ALL OF YOU REPRESENT THE FACE AND FUTURE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT HOLDS PART OF THE ANSWER FOR HOW WE CONTINUE TO FUEL THE GROWTH OF NOT ONLY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, BUT METRO AREAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR RELATIONSHIP AND ON WORKING TOWARD SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO OUR MUTUAL CHALLENGES.

ON BEHALF OF MAYOR GIMENEZ, LET ME ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING MIAMI.

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY SUCCESSFUL FORUM AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET OUT AND ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME BACK!

