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## **CONGRESSMAN ADAM PUTNAM APPLAUDS FLORIDA AS LEADER IN FOOD SAFETY**

MAITLAND, Fla. (Sept. 21, 2010) – U.S Rep. Adam Putnam called on Congress to pass the food safety bill pending in the Senate and applauded Florida agriculture for being in front of the issue by passing a mandatory food-safety program for the tomato industry.

“The most important issue facing consumers is food safety, and the leader in food safety is Florida. The federal law we’re struggling mightily to get across the finish line is based on what Florida and California have done, because they’re the model,” he said in his keynote address during FFVA’s 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Naples.

“This industry and this association should receive proper credit for being on the leading edge of being in a job-creating industry, growing the economy and keeping people safe. That’s what your industry and the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association do every day in our state capital and in Washington,” said Putnam, who is running for Florida commissioner of agriculture.

Putnam said candidates in the commissioner’s race have typically fallen into two types: the pro-agriculture candidate versus the pro-consumer candidate. “That is a false choice that every Floridian should reject,” he said. “There is no difference between what is good for the farmer and what’s good for the consumer.”

Putnam pointed out the need to fix the immigration system, which he called “broken.”

“The simple question for our fellow Americans is this: Do you want a vitally important sector of the economy and critically important part of our national economy to remain here within our shores to allow us to feed our nation, or will we become just as dependent on others for our food as we are on our fuel? Cooler heads have to prevail. We have to move forward with an immigration plan that keeps American as the envy of the world

across the workforce spectrum, from the medical industry and high tech to agricultural production.”

In 2001 at age 26, Adam Putnam became one of the youngest members in Congress in history. In 2006, Putnam’s colleagues chose him to be chairman of the Republican Conference, the third highest-ranking Republican in the House and the highest-ranking member of congressional leadership from Florida in either party. As conference chairman, he was charged with articulating his party’s message and working with his colleagues to build an agenda for America’s future. Prior to serving as conference chairman, Putnam chaired the House Republican Policy Committee, which was fourth in line in the Republican leadership during the 109th Congress.

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association is an agricultural organization representing Florida’s producers of fruits, vegetables and other crops.

*Digital photos are available on request by e-mailing [Barbara.Wunder@ffva.com](mailto:Barbara.Wunder@ffva.com).*