



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**BILL McCOLLUM**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

July 6, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
PL 05, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

As you know, Florida faces the serious challenge of thousands of people from other countries residing in our state illegally. While I have a great respect for immigrants who go through proper legal channels to live in our country, I am extremely troubled by those who choose to ignore that process to live and work here illegally, taking jobs which might otherwise be available to the thousands of Floridians who are currently out of work and placing an additional budgetary strain on our healthcare and education systems.

I believe that one effective tool in combating illegal immigration is to use the Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system that allows employers to determine the eligibility of an employee to work in the United States. This internet-based system uses information from the employee's Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification--with no charge for employers to utilize the system.

As one of Florida's largest employers, state government should lead by example. I am requesting that you use your authority to direct state agencies under your supervision to use the E-Verify system as soon as possible to verify the employment eligibility of all new hires upon employment. Since there is no cost to use the E-Verify system, this policy change could be implemented quickly.

I would also like to add an item to the July 29th Cabinet meeting that would allow us to collectively direct all state Cabinet agencies to use the E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of new hires upon employment as well. This action will enable us to ensure that those who are working for the State are here legally.

Finally, I request that you instruct the Department of Management Services to conduct a study on requiring all contractors who do business with the State to use the E-Verify system for all of their employees. Specifically, the study should address any rule or statutory changes which may be

necessary to implement this requirement. I firmly believe that if feasible, those who contract with the State of Florida should use the E-Verify system.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. By making these changes to the State of Florida's employment practices, we can lead by example in addressing the growing problem of illegal immigration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill McCollum

cc: Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Department of Financial Services  
Commissioner Charles Bronson, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Secretary Linda South, Department of Management Services