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News for Immediate Release

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***Mike Haridopolos Endorses Jack Latvala for Senate District 16***

Incoming Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) announced today his endorsement of Jack Latvala for State Senate, District 16.

“Jack Latvala has valuable experience that will be very helpful to the Senate. He accomplished many things for the Tampa Bay area and the state as a whole when he served in the Senate from 1994-2002. He was the driving force to end the water wars in the Tampa Bay area, he was a champion for the environment, and he was a true leader in the area of education.

“ I worked with Jack Latvala and saw first-hand how hard he worked for the people he represented and how effective an advocate he was on the issues he thought we were important to the people of Florida. He earned widespread respect from those in both parties with whom he came into contact. I look forward to serving with Jack Latvala in the Florida Senate.”

“This is an important endorsement for me and I appreciate it very much,” said Latvala. “I have been very pleased with the response my candidacy has received so far, but I expect this to be a very hard-fought race and this critical support from the next Senate President will add considerably to our momentum.”

While in the Senate, Latvala served as Majority Leader from 1998-2000, and chaired the following Senate Committees: Natural Resources, Government Oversight and Productivity, Banking and Insurance, as well as the Congressional Redistricting subcommittee and the Select Committee on Water Policy. Before retiring in 2002, he passed over 125 pieces of legislation and was consistently rated in the Top 10 Senators in effectiveness in annual Miami Herald surveys.

Since his retirement from the Florida Senate, Latvala has operated small businesses including a printing company in Largo and a carwash. He is a longtime director of Community Hospital in New Port Richey and a director of Synovus Bank of Tampa Bay.

Latvala, 57, of Clearwater, has been a Pinellas County resident since 1979. He has a son, Chris, of Clearwater, and daughter, Stephanie Courson, who lives in Riverview with her husband, Jim Courson, and Latvala’s two grandchildren, Blake and Sydni.

Current State Senator Charlie Justice is vacating the District 16 seat to run for the U.S. Congress. District 16 includes parts of Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Jack Latvala, Republican for Florida Senate, District 16