

## New Member Spotlight



Brian Yablonski, new member of the [FESC Industry Advisory Board](#), is currently the External Affairs Director for the Gulf Power Company, an investor owned utility serving Northwest Florida. He is responsible for the management and oversight of regulatory affairs and governmental affairs activities.

Prior to working with Gulf Power, Mr. Yablonski was Vice President of Public Affairs for the St. Joe Company, one of Florida's largest private landowners. In this role, he helped strategically plan nearly 600,000 acres of land in Northwest Florida, including having overseen state and federal governmental relations, environmental strategy and economic policy development. He also served as Director of Policy and Deputy Chief of Staff for Florida Governor Jeb Bush, where he helped craft the administration's major policy initiatives.

Mr. Yablonski is in his seventh year as a commissioner on Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the state agency charged with protecting endangered species and wildlife, and overseeing hunting and fishing activities in the state of Florida. In addition, he was appointed in 2007 by then-Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio to serve on the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, which meets once every 20 years to examine the state's tax and budget structure. In that capacity, he served as the primary sponsor of Constitutional Amendment 4, an initiative to provide tax exemptions for natural lands placed into permanent conservation easements. As a result of this work, he was named Florida's 2009 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Yablonski is also an Adjunct Fellow with the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) in Bozeman, Montana. This national institute works to improve environmental quality through the use of market principles and property rights. Mr. Yablonski is a contributor to PERC's policy journal. As well, Mr. Yablonski sits on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Excellence in Education and the Foundation for Florida's Future, both reform-oriented education organizations chaired by former Governor Bush.

Mr. Yablonski graduated with honors from Wake Forest University and the University of Miami School of Law.