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**NAIOP Florida Legislative Efforts
Result in Major Reduction to the Business Rent Tax**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 20, 2021)

A significant cut to the Business Rent Tax – the sales tax on rents under commercial leases – is on the horizon.

The Florida chapters of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, have long recognized that this tax, which is unique to Florida, is an undue burden on commercial landlords and tenants. Due in part to NAIOP's continued advocacy over the past several years, incremental reductions have been achieved. Now, with the passage of SB50 on April 19, 2021, which enforces Florida's existing sales tax on online purchases, a truly meaningful cut will be made.

The initial proceeds from the online sales tax will be directed to the unemployment tax fund for businesses. When that fund collects \$4,017,000,000, which could occur as soon as 2023, the Business Rent Tax will automatically be reduced from 5.5% to 2.0%.

This is projected to save Florida businesses over \$1,000,000,000 in taxes annually that can be reinvested into their companies, employees and communities.

"This success is a credit to NAIOP Florida's tireless effort and validates our belief that the Business Rent Tax is bad for business. It is real progress toward our ultimate goal – the elimination of this onerous tax," says Trey Wilson, NAIOP Florida's 2021 President and a partner at the law firm of Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, PLLC in Jacksonville.

Leadership from each of Florida's five NAIOP chapters – Tampa, Central, Northwest, Northeast and South Florida – actively engaged lawmakers in multiple virtual visits and letter-writing campaigns during the 2021 legislative cycle. A central focus of those visits was lowering, and eventually eradicating, the Business Rent Tax.

About NAIOP

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, is the leading organization for developers, owners and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP comprises 20,000 members in North America. NAIOP advances responsible commercial real estate development and advocates for effective public policy. For more information, visit naiop.org.

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