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March 3, 2016

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Ascension Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter of support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program. Act 435 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is set to expire, and a new bill to renew the LTFS Program is being submitted in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program is an essential tool used to encourage international tourists to visit Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases.

Tourism is one of Louisiana's top industries, generating \$11.2 billion in annual spending for Louisiana businesses, and shopping is a top activity of all travelers. International visitors, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

The Ascension Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of legislation to extend the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping, program and has seen the tremendous value and impact it offers to all of the businesses in the Ascension Parish area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sherrie Despino'.

Sherrie Despino,  
President/CEO