



April 1, 2016

Dear Legislators:

I am writing this letter in support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax-Free Shopping Program. At 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 for all travelers. International visitors, on average, spend 20 percent more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

The Elmwood Business Association joins many other business groups in fully supporting this initiative and has seen the tremendous value and impact it offers to all of the businesses in the Greater New Orleans area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna C. Lowe'.

Donna Casadaban Lowe, 2016 President