



HISPANIC CHAMBER
of COMMERCE of Louisiana

March 1, 2016

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Dear Legislators,

I am writing this letter in 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. We are proud to say the top users of the program have been Latin American countries like Mexico, Honduras, and Brazil.

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% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana supports this initiative and has seen tremendous value and the impact it offers to all of the businesses in the Greater New Orleans area and throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Mayra Pineda
Executive Director