



Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to you on behalf of the more than 65,000 members of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Please accept this letter of support for Senate Bill 882, legislation that would extend the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program. The current program is set to expire this year, and it is vital to the economy of Louisiana that the Tax Free Shopping Program be renewed.

Founded in 1957, ICSC is the premier global trade association of the shopping center industry, representing shopping center owners, developers, managers, marketing specialists, investors, retailers, and brokers, as well as academics and public officials in over 100 countries. In Louisiana alone, shopping centers employ over 185,000 people (over 9% of the employed LA workforce) and generate \$1.2 billion in sales tax revenue each year. In fact, Louisiana shopping centers account for more than \$29.1 billion in annual economic activity via retail sales.

The Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program plays an important role in the economic contributions shopping centers provide. It is an essential tool used to encourage international tourists to visit Louisiana by offering sales tax refund on qualified purchases. As the volunteer State Government Relations Chair of ICSC in Louisiana, I believe that the sales tax program has a benefit to not only consumers and local business, but also their employees. As such, ICSC respectfully requests passage of Senate Bill 882, extending the program.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Attached is some data on the retail real estate industry in Louisiana. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can answer any questions or be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Serio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Serio

State Government Relations Chair of Louisiana