

JEDCO

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission

March 1, 2016

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.

Tourism is one of Louisiana's top industries, generating over \$11 billion in annual spending for Louisiana businesses. In an effort to capture a larger portion of the market share of international visitors, Louisiana created the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission. The LTFS has been proven to be an economic stimulus for the state.

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Board of Commissioners believe that not renewing the sunset provision for this program would negatively affect the tourism as well as retail industry in Jefferson Parish.

Therefore, the JEDCO Board of Commissioners, together with the 150 plus industry partners of the Jefferson Convention & Visitors Bureau, support renewing the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,



Jerry Bologna
Executive Director