

March 23, 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.

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. International visitors, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

The Port of South Louisiana and Port Commission fully support the passage of legislation to extend the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping program.

Sincerely,



Paul G. Aucoin
Executive Director

America's Largest Tonnage Port



March 24, 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.

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 River Region Chamber fully supports this initiative and has seen the tremendous value and impact it offers to all of the businesses in the River Parishes.

Sincerely,

Chassity McComack

Chassity McComack, IOM
Executive Director