



March 3, 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. In fact, St. Tammany Parish had \$140,000 in purchases in 2015. International visitors, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna O'Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna O'Daniels
CEO & President
St. Tammany Parish Tourist
and Convention Commission