



PARISH OF JEFFERSON
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

December 18, 2015

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.

During 2014, Jefferson Parish greatly benefitted from international visitor shopping with purchases of \$20.6M made at local merchants. Independent surveys have shown that forty-eight percent of international visitors stated that they spent more while visiting Louisiana because of the LTFS Program.

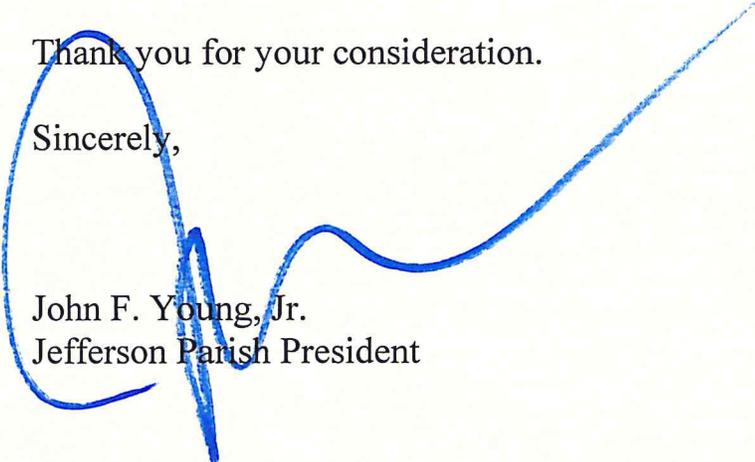
Jefferson parish recognizes the proven success of the LTFS Program as an economic stimulus for the state of Louisiana, as well as the Parish, as shown in an economic impact study conducted by the University of New Orleans. The study reveals that the Program generated a total economic impact of \$73.7M, and almost \$2.7M in new state tax revenue during 2011. It was determined that for every \$1.00 returned to international visitors using the program, an additional \$1.80 is generated in new tax revenue from direct and indirect spending.

Since Jefferson Parish has a desire to increase its tourism market, and the LTFS Program has significantly contributed to help establish Louisiana and Jefferson Parish as a prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the LTFS Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John F. Young, Jr.
Jefferson Parish President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Young, Jr.", is written over the typed name and extends upwards and to the right across the page.