



P. O. Box 78321
Baton Rouge, LA 70837
www.louisianabandb.com
sherrygomez@cox.net
Ph: (225) 978-0691

Dear Sirs:

The Louisiana Bed and Breakfast Association (LBBA) are 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 Louisiana Bed and Breakfast Association Board of Directors believe that not renewing the sunset provision for this program would negatively affect tourism as well as the retail industry for the state at a time when advances are being made to promote international travel to Louisiana. The board of directors, on behalf of our membership, supports the passage of SB342 which extends the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping program through June 30, 2017.

Since our B&B's have a desire to increase its foreign tourism market, and the LTFS Program has significantly contributed to help establish Louisiana as a prime international tourist destination, we strongly support renewal of the LTFS Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cenac, President
Louisiana Bed and Breakfast Association