



February 25, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as support for extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program (LTFS). Act 435 of the 2012 Regular Session is set to expire and a new bill to renew the LTFS is being submitted in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

Tourism is an economic driver, and the State of Louisiana has been in the top two states over the past two years in increases of international travelers. The Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program is working, and is an excellent tool to entice visitors to our area. Here in Lafayette Parish and Acadiana, the LTFS rebate center recently moved into the Acadiana Mall, and we have seen great growth with the program with its new location.

Shopping is a top activity of all travelers to our area. We know that international visitors, on average, spend 20% more shopping than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (337) 232-3737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benj J. Berthelot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Benjamin J. Berthelot