



**CHRIS ROBERTS**  
COUNCILMAN AT-LARGE, DIV. A  
JEFFERSON PARISH

EASTBANK  
1221 ELMWOOD PARK BLVD.  
JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA 70123  
OFFICE: (504) 364-2607

WESTBANK  
200 DERBIGNY STREET, SUITE 6200  
P.O. BOX 9  
GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70054  
OFFICE: (504) 364-2616

April 14, 2016

RE: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping

Legislators:

I am writing in support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) 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 will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at Louisiana destinations two to three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state, making tourism a top industry that generates in annual spending for Louisiana businesses more than eleven billion dollars!

In 2014, Jefferson Parish benefited tremendously through nearly \$21M in international visitor shopping at our local merchants; and independent surveys indicate that 48% of these visiting international shoppers spend more in Louisiana because of the LTFS Program. Previously, a University of New Orleans study proved that, in 2011, the LTFS Program produced state-wide a total economic impact of \$73.7M and almost \$2.7M in new state revenue. From direct and indirect spending, with every \$1 in LTFS, Louisiana claims an additional \$1.80 in new tax revenue!

To buoy our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Yours for a stronger Louisiana,

Christopher L. Roberts  
Councilman At-Large, Division A



# CYNTHIA LEE-SHENG

COUNCILWOMAN AT-LARGE

DIVISION B

JEFFERSON PARISH

## EASTBANK

1221 ELMWOOD PARK BLVD, SUITE 1018  
JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA 70123  
OFFICE: (504) 736-6016

## WESTBANK

200 DERBIGNY STREET, SUITE 6200  
GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70053  
OFFICE: (504) 364-2624

April 12, 2016

**Re: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping**

**Legislators:**


I am writing in support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) 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 will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at Louisiana destinations two to three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state, making tourism a top industry that generates in annual spending for Louisiana businesses more than eleven billion dollars!

In 2014, Jefferson Parish benefited tremendously through nearly \$21M in international visitor shopping at our local merchants; and independent surveys indicate that 48% of these visiting international shoppers spend more in Louisiana because of the LTFS Program. Previously, a University of New Orleans study proved that, in 2011, the LTFS Program produced state-wide a total economic impact of \$73.7M and almost \$2.7M in new state revenue. From direct and indirect spending, with every \$1 in LTFS, Louisiana claims an additional \$1.80 in new tax revenue!

To buoy our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Lee-Sheng  
Councilwoman At-Large, Division B



**RICKY J. TEMPLET**  
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 1  
JEFFERSON PARISH

P.O. Box 9  
GRETN, LOUISIANA 70054  
PHONE: (504) 364-2607  
FAX: (504) 364-2615

April 8, 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 Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission has been proven an economic stimulus for our state which generates over 1 billion dollars in annual spending. Tourism is one of Louisiana's top industries and I believe that not renewing the sunset provision for this program would adversely affect our tourism as well as the retail industry in our state. Due to the higher tourism rates our state benefits from a higher hotel occupancies and more personnel can be hired.

In hopes of keeping our state an international tourism destination for many years to come, my goal is that you will support renewing the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,

Ricky Temple  
Councilman, District 1

RT/adc



**PAUL D. JOHNSTON**  
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 2  
JEFFERSON PARISH

March 22, 2016

East Bank  
Phone (504) 736-6607

West Bank  
Phone (504) 364-3446

Email: [PaulJohnston@jeffparish.net](mailto:PaulJohnston@jeffparish.net)

Re: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping

Legislators:

I am writing in support of extending the sunset provisions of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) Program. Act 435 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is set to expire. A new bill to renew the LTFS Program will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts. They stay at Louisiana destinations two or three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state. Tourism generates more than eleven million dollars of annual spending for Louisiana businesses.

In 2014, Jefferson Parish benefited tremendously as international visitors spent nearly \$21 M in our local businesses. Independent surveys indicated that 48% of these international visitors spend more in Louisiana because of the LTFS Program. A University of New Orleans study proved that in 2011, the LTFS Program produced state-wide a total economic impact of \$73.7 M and almost \$2.7M in new state revenue. From direct and indirect spending, with every \$1 in LTFS, Louisiana claims an additional \$2.80 in new tax revenue.

To buoy our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends across the width of the text area.

Paul D. Johnston  
Councilman, District 2



**MARK D. SPEARS, JR.**  
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 3  
JEFFERSON PARISH

**WESTBANK**  
200 DERBIGNY STREET  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT BLDG., SUITE 6500  
GRETN. LOUISIANA 70053  
OFFICE: (504) 364-2603 FAX: (504) 364-3704

**EASTBANK**  
1221 ELMWOOD PARK BLVD.  
JOSEPH S. YENNI BLDG., SUITE 1011  
JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA 70123  
OFFICE: (504) 736-6591 FAX: (504) 736-6598

April 1, 2016

RE: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping

Legislators:

I am writing in support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) 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 will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at Louisiana destinations two to three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state, making tourism a top industry that generates in annual spending for Louisiana businesses more than eleven billion dollars!

In 2014, Jefferson Parish benefited tremendously through nearly \$21M in international visitor shopping at our local merchants; and independent surveys indicate that 48% of these visiting international shoppers spend more in Louisiana because of the LTFS Program. Previously, a University of New Orleans study proved that, in 2011, the LTFS Program produced state-wide a total economic impact of \$73.7M and almost \$2.7M in new state revenue. From direct and indirect spending, with every \$1 in LTFS, Louisiana claims an additional \$1.80 in new tax revenue!

To buoy our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Yours for a stronger Louisiana,

Councilman Mark D. Spears Jr.



**E. "BEN" ZAHN, III**  
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 4  
JEFFERSON PARISH

SUITE 1015  
1221 ELMWOOD PARK BLVD.  
JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA 70123  
OFFICE: (504) 736-6622  
FAX: (504) 736-6639

April 11, 2016

Re: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping

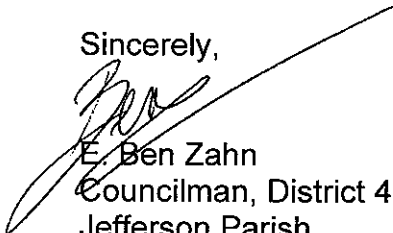
Dear Legislators:

I would like to state my support for the extension of the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) Program. It is my understanding that Act 435 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is set to expire, and a new bill to renew the LTFS Program will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session

Additionally this program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists spend on average, 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at Louisiana destinations to two three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state, making tourism a top industry that generates in annual spending for Louisiana businesses more than eleven billion dollars! Independent surveys indicate that 48% of these visiting international shoppers spend more in Louisiana because of the LTFS Program. Previously, a University of New Orleans study proved that, in 2011, the LTFS Program produced state-wide a total economic impact of \$73.7M and almost \$2.7M in new state revenue. From direct and indirect spending, with every \$1 in LTFS, Louisiana claims an additional \$1.80 in new tax revenue!

In an effort to boost our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,

  
E. Ben Zahn  
Councilman, District 4  
Jefferson Parish

EBZ/ac



# JENNIFER VAN VRANCKEN

COUNCILWOMAN, DISTRICT 5

JEFFERSON PARISH

March 17, 2016

RE: Support Louisiana Tax Free Shopping

Legislators:

I am writing in support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping (LTFS) 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 will appear in the upcoming 2016 Regular Session.

The Tax Free Shopping Program attracts international tourists to Louisiana by offering a sales tax refund on qualified purchases. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at Louisiana destinations two to three days longer. With shopping a top activity for foreign travelers, the LTFS Program has proven to be an economic stimulus for our state, making tourism a top industry that generates in annual spending for Louisiana businesses more than eleven billion dollars!

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To buoy our state economy and further establish Jefferson Parish as a growing prime international tourist destination, I strongly support renewal of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Yours for a stronger Louisiana,

Jennifer Van Vrancken-Dwyer