



April 19, 2016

Dear Legislators:

I am writing on behalf of the Livingston Economic Development Council to support the extension of 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. International tourists, on average, spend 20% more than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two or three days longer. Tourism is one of Louisiana's top industries, generating \$11.2 billion in annual spending for Louisiana businesses, it is for these reasons the Livingston Economic Development Council supports extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abigail DePino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Abigail DePino  
Vice President

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