



Resolution in Support of extending the sunset provision of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Refund Program from 2017 to 2021/ SB 342

WHEREAS, Tourism by French tourist ranks near the top of foreign visitors to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, shopping is a major activity for French tourists; and

WHEREAS, international visitors substantially more shopping than their domestic counterparts and stay at a destination two to three days longer; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, in an effort to capture a larger portion of the market share of international visitors, including those from France, created the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission has been proven to be an economic stimulus for the state of Louisiana. Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser says 28.9 million visitors came to Louisiana last year, up by 200,000 from 2014. The data on tourism is part of the University of New Orleans's Louisiana Tourism Forecast Report for 2015.

WHEREAS, State officials estimate spending by visitors grew in 2015 to \$11.5 billion, a 2.7 percent increase over the previous year. The travel and tourism industry generated \$843 million in state tax revenues in 2015.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission is self funded through user fees; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Commission sunsets June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the French American Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Coast Chapter ("FACC-GC") believes that not renewing the sunset provision for this program would negatively affect French tourism;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the French American Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Coaster Chapter's Board of Directors, supports the passage of SB 342 which extends the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping program through June 30, 2021 and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Administration, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the State Treasurer, the Chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and various appropriate media.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ERIN BELIN', written in a cursive style.

Erin Belin

Date: April 19, 2016

President of the French American Chamber of Commerce,
Gulf Coast Chapter