



Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

SUMMARY

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce represents more than 750 businesses which employ more than 26,000 individuals in the region. The Chamber takes very seriously its responsibility as an advocate for business and industry.

To that end, the Chamber will be proactive in its advocacy. The Chamber retains lobbyist, Eric Sunstrom - The Chesapeake Group, in Baton Rouge.

As your Chamber, we will support legislation which affects our business community and encourage all members and your employees to take part in the legislative process by voicing your opinions and concerns so that we may represent your needs effectively.

The Chamber membership will be kept up to date on all matters impacting our region at local, state, and federal levels. It's a non-partisan organization that supports legislation based on the following criteria:

- Supports the overall needs of the economy in Terrebonne Parish, as well as the surrounding parishes.
- Supports our business community.
- Supports responsible government and pro-business legislation.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Tax Reform & Job Creation:

Encourage pro-growth tax policies that preserve America's global competitiveness and support businesses' ability to grow, invest and create jobs.

Broaden the tax base to help lower rates for individuals and corporations, eliminate special tax breaks, simplify compliance, and ensure no specific industry is targeted.

Energy/Alternative Energy and Regulations:

Support the removal of barriers to increased domestic oil and natural gas production and manufacturing.

Encourage pro-growth energy action that increases diverse energy supplies, supports the development of alternative fuels, reduces the cost of energy, improves efficiency, and promotes environmental stewardship while putting Americans back to work.

Ensure that the EPA evaluates economic impact and job loss in its regulations, as is currently required by all major environmental laws .

Support efforts by Congress to construct comprehensive environmental legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and protects our economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Education:

Increase job training and education efforts to train the millions of unemployed or underemployed Americans.

Provide more directed support to community colleges for workforce training and education.

Preserve current funding levels for research grants and contracts with Universities.

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Federal Delegation:

Senator Bill Cassidy (R)

703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-5824

<http://www.cassidy.senate.gov>

Senator David Vitter (R)

516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-4623

<http://vitter.senate.gov>

Congressman Garret Graves (R)

204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-3901

<https://garretgraves.house.gov>

Congressman Steve Scalise (R)

2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-3015

<https://scalise.house.gov>

State Delegation:

Senator Norby Chabert (R)

Capitol Office: (225) 342-2040

District Office: (985) 858-2927

E-mail: chabertn@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant: Genie Ardoin

Senator R.L. "Bret" Allain, II (R)

Capitol Office: (225) 342-2040

District Office: (985) 850-2387

E-mail: allainb@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant: Laura Meadows

Representative Tanner Magee (R)

District Office: (985) 858-2970

E-mail: mageet@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant: Vickie Larke

Representative Jerome Zeringue (R)

District Office: (985) 876-8823

E-mail: zeringuej@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant: Tandi Dillon

Representative Beryl Amedee (R)

District Office: (985) 858-2967

E-mail: amedeeb@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant: Charlette Poche

(FEDERAL POLICIES CONTINUED)

Improve student achievement and close achievement gaps; support special emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), U.S. history and economics, investment in school improvement, and encourage innovation.

Healthcare:

Reduce the cost of health care and health care insurance.

Transportation/Infrastructure:

Support multi-year legislation to provide long-term funding for states to undertake major infrastructure projects.

Immigration Reform:

Support comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the impact of potential new laws on businesses and community, future needs of business for essential workers, strengthens national security, avoids unfunded and cumbersome burdens on employers, creates disincentives for illegal immigration, establishes clear enforceable laws, ensures that U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers, and addresses the backlog and excessive waiting period for citizenship.

STATE POLICIES

The 2016 Regular Legislative Session will convene on March 14 and adjourn on June 6.

Education:

Support innovative funding methods for higher education and protection against further cuts.

K-12 Education/State Standards:

Support higher state standards and accountability and maintain BESE's authority in education matters.

Business Incentives and Tax Issues:

Oppose bills that eliminate or cap meaningful incentives, or measures that provide unpredictability for businesses.

Oppose bills that place tax burden on businesses.

Oppose cutting inventory tax credit unless coupled with elimination of inventory tax and methods to lessen the blow to parish budgets.

Infrastructure:

The Chamber has been a longtime advocate for coastal restoration and protection. The Chamber supports funding for Morganza to the Gulf and the protection of dedicated coastal restoration funding.

The Chamber supports alternate methods of funding for I-49 South as long as equal representation is given to all regions involved.

The Chamber supports a North-South corridor for hurricane evacuation and economic development.

The Chamber supports providing new funding methods for transportation projects and supports those providing this funding without negatively impacting the state budget or funding for education and healthcare.

Economic Development:

The Chamber opposes the watering down or elimination of long-standing economic development incentives.

The Chamber supports funding to bolster the port and airport as they both significantly contribute to economic development in the parish.

RESOURCES

Contacts:

Earl Eues, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Chad Hebert — Vice-Chair Government Activities Division

David Rabalais— Government Activities Committee Chair

Suzanne Carlos— President & CEO
suzanne@houmachamber.com

Eric Sunstrom— The Chesapeake Group
Lobbyist - State Legislature

Betsy Breerwood— Government Activities - Staff Liaison, betsy@houmachamber.com

Web sites:

Houma-Terrebonne Chamber
www.houmachamber.com

United States Chamber of Commerce
www.uschamber.com

Louisiana Legislature www.legis.state.la.us

Meeting Dates:

The Government Activities Committee of the Chamber meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of every month at Noon at the Chamber office.

About the Chamber:

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, business association.

90 percent of a member's investment in the Chamber is tax deductible as a necessary business expense.



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