



**2010  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce is acutely aware of the potential impact that the actions of political bodies can have on business and the economic development of our community, our Parish and our State. Therefore, the Board of Directors feels it imperative that the Chamber is proactive in addressing issues that concern business and the quality of life for the citizens of Thibodaux, Louisiana. Therefore, the Board of Directors, representing more than 600 members has taken positions on the following issues:

**FEDERAL ISSUES**

The Chamber has expressed to the Louisiana Federal Delegation its' opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act and continues to oppose this legislation that would radically alter a worker's right to collective bargaining, and allowing union organizing to take place secretly. The Chamber feels that EFCA, if passed would have a detrimental impact on the ability for businesses to grow and create jobs.

The Chamber also opposes legislation referred to as "Cap and Trade." In addition to eliminating tax incentives that have been available to the Oil & Gas Industry, 1,838 million Americans directly employed in the industry and 4,066 indirect jobs would negatively be impacted. The proposed legislation would significantly reduce domestic energy production in the U.S. The result would be radical tax increases.

The Chamber has expressed opposition to many of the provisions included in the now enacted Health Care Reform bill. The Chamber will continue to monitor the legislation's impact on business and taxpayers.

The Chamber is also opposed to the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act (CFPA). The proposed legislation would challenge any business that extends credit to customers, forcing them to be subject to governmental regulatory oversight and to comply with Federal terms and conditions. The proposed legislation also raises concerns regarding security and privacy as the CFPA would be granted the authority to request and hold reports from any covered entity including bank accounts and balances.

**Federal Delegation**

**Senator Mary Landrieu (D)**  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-5824  
<http://landrieu.senate.gov>

**Senator David Vitter (R)**  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-4623  
<http://vitter.senate.gov>

**Congressman Charlie Melancon (D)**  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202)225-4031  
<http://www.house.gov/melancon>

**Thibodaux Chamber of  
Commerce**

318 East Bayou Road  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
985-446-1187  
[Info@ThibodauxChamber.com](mailto:Info@ThibodauxChamber.com)

Dr. Sonya Premeaux  
Chairman of the Board  
Annette Fontana  
Governmental Affairs Chairman  
Kathy Benoit  
President/CEO



**2010  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**STATE ISSUES**

**State Delegation (Bayou Region)**

**Senator Joel Chiasson (D)**

District Office: (985)764-9911  
E-mail: websen@legis.state.la.us

**Senator Norby Chabert (D)**

District Office: (985)858-2927  
E-mail: chabert@legis.state.la.us

**Senator Butch Gautreaux (D)**

Capitol Office: (225)342-2040  
District Office: (800)562-3204  
E-mail: lasenz1@legis.state.la.us

**Representative Damon Baldone (D)**

District Office: (985)876-8872  
E-mail: larepo53@legis.state.la.us

**Representative Gordon Dove (R)**

District Office: (985)876-8823  
E-mail: larepo52@legis.state.la.us

**Representative Jerry Gisclair (D)**

District Office: (985)798-7707  
Email: gisclairt@legis.state.la.us

**Representative Joe Harrison (R)**

District Office: (800)935-2081  
E-mail: harrisoj@legis.state.la.us

**Representative Jerome Richard (I)**

District Office: (985)447-0999  
E-mail: richardj@legis.state.la.us

**Thibodaux Chamber of  
Commerce**

318 East Bayou Road  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
985-446-1187  
Info@ThibodauxChamber.com

Dr. Sonya Premeaux  
Chairman of the Board  
Annette Fontana  
Governmental Affairs Chairman  
Kathy Benoit  
President/CEO

The Chamber supports the Louisiana GRAD Act in that it will provide institutions of higher education, the flexibility to increase tuition up to 10 percent in an effort to reach the southern average. Although the legislation provides an improvement to the current situation, we believe that it does not provide enough flexibility to reach financial goals in a reasonable amount of time.

The Chamber has long supported the effort of the Reintroduction of the Mississippi River into Bayou Lafourche. The Bayou is the drinking water supply for a population of over 300,000 individuals and businesses. The insufficient flow of water in the Bayou contributes to salt water intrusion and prevents sediment from flowing to severely eroding marshlands.

The Chamber is supportive of other infrastructure needs including the creation of a "North-South" corridor for hurricane evacuation for the residents of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. It has long been supportive of funding for the I-49 South, in addition to supporting funding for coastal restoration and protection efforts for South Louisiana.

While realizing that in a challenged economy, certain budgetary cuts are necessary, the Chamber is opposed to excessive funding reductions to higher education, especially at Nicholls State University, the Louisiana Technical College, Lafourche Campus, and Fletcher Community College because of the positive economic impact that the schools have on the economy of the Bayou Region.

The Chamber is supportive of Louisiana School Board Reform including limiting the ability for board members to involve themselves in personnel issues, requiring a super-majority of school board members before a superintendent can be terminated, enacting term limits for board members, adjusting compensation for board members to a per diem system, prohibiting school board members from taking part in district health insurance plans, and require that individuals seeking election to school boards hold at least a high school diploma.

The Chamber opposes any reduction or elimination of state economic development incentives.

The Chamber strongly is of the opinion that the Bayou Region contributes significantly to the economic prosperity of the State of Louisiana and has a large enough population base to retain its own Congressional District.

The Chamber is of the opinion that a State Senatorial District should be created in the North Lafourche/North Terrebonne area to represent the interests of businesses and individuals.