



Legislative Priorities plus Local & Federal Positions taken by the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce

Transportation / Roads

Highway 447 - The Chamber represents its business members and held a meeting with local business and elected officials in regards to proposed alterations to Highway 447. The Chamber encourages dialogue with businesses in all stages of such plans including input, planning and execution of projects. The Chamber has the Highway 447 project on its projects to watch list. The project is monitored and updated regularly at the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee meetings.

Interstate 12 - The Chamber continues to support the widening of Interstate 12 to six lanes from Baton Rouge, throughout Livingston Parish and finally to the Mississippi State Line. The widening project is monitored and reviewed regularly at Chamber Governmental Affairs meeting.

Highway 190 - The Chamber supports studies, overviews, and other data seeking options to align with the widening of Highway 190. The Chamber supports business input to avert possible negative economic impact in regards to any project.

Overall - With the exception of an area of Highway 190 and Highway 16, there are no four lane highways throughout the parish to alleviate the pressure when an issue occurs on Interstate 12. Highway 447 congestion is a continuing issue as well. Overall, traffic remains an issue in Livingston Parish and for those in surrounding parishes commuting through Livingston Parish. Additional funding for roads and highways will allow a planned opportunity for economic growth and continued attraction to Livingston Parish.

Healthcare

Louisiana Hospital Association's request for a review with the Chamber Board of Director's for information on the upcoming ballot issue will be completed.

Continued access for citizens to quality health care. The Chamber endorses the efforts of community based health care, increased efforts for access to quality care within the parish and efforts to attract quality providers, physicians and facilities. The growth of the parish demonstrates the continued need for citizen safety, health and accessible healthcare.

Education/ Workforce Development

Jump Start The Chamber supports the Jump Start program which prepares students in high school for high demand / high wage jobs. The Chamber has been invited to and has provided input as a voice of the local business community on employment needs.

Workforce Development / STEM / STEAM/ Common Core / Early Childhood Education/ WISE The Chamber has each of these items on the agenda for the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Chamber's Education Committee for discussion, monitoring and review. The Chamber has not formalized a position of each of these items. The Chamber, as a whole, supports opportunities for hiring local residents and the opportunities provided for local business to hire a competitive workforce.

Federal Issues

National Flood Insurance Program The Chamber supports action which addresses affordability concerns to the residential and business community. The Chamber supports a long term solution to the issue which is set to resurface as it currently stands.

Keystone Pipeline Project The Chamber Board of Directors voted to support the Keystone Pipeline Project taking into consideration our status as an energy state, the projected jobs growth.

Definition of Full time - The Chamber supports HB 2575 and the definition of a full time employee as one with a 40 hour work week.

Other issues

Minimum Wage Increase - The Chamber opposes increases to minimum wage and a state imposed minimum wage beyond the federal set minimum wage at this time. The impact on local business was a reason for the position. Local businesses currently pay those more qualified for positions a wage above minimum.

The Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce has been watchful and mindful of the impact of business on legislation which address Tort Reform, Internet Sales Tax, BP Oil Spill and its effect on Louisiana Businesses.

Activities in 2014 include:

1. Meeting with our State Delegation prior to session to review upcoming issues affecting business and Livingston Parish.
2. Monthly Governmental Affairs Committee meetings with experts in their respective industries providing information on impact to Livingston Parish business.
3. Attendance at Northshore Focus where Chambers throughout the North Shore area collectively represent the business interest of our member base.

4. Survey of Chamber members to provide feedback to those in the decision making process and to make them aware of the decision on the business community.
5. To provide information to interested leaders in the parish on topics which would assist business in growing and expanding in the parish.
6. Provide a location for the collection of survey data for a public studies on the proposed changes to the Pete's Highway, Range exit at I12 in Denham Springs.
7. Relay to the US Chamber our concerns of their position on the BP Spill and the negative effect and the devastation of the disaster including economic impact on business in Livingston Parish.
8. Attended, on behalf of the chamber and its members, forums and briefing at state and regional levels on business legislative priorities, Common Core forums, State Chamber's Association briefings on education, upcoming federal issues and the tone of progress and the ability to collaborate at the federal level,
9. Board of Directors, Governmental Affairs Committee Members and other stakeholders attended and represented business in Livingston Parish.

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