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Jefferson Chamber Supports Crescent City Connection Task Force Recommendations

Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors makes decision based on review of legislation

(March 5, 2012) Metairie, La. — On Thursday, March 1, 2012, the Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors voted to support the Crescent City Connection (CCC) Task Force recommendations related to the operations of the CCC subject to a review of any legislation that may be proposed.

The Task Force, composed of representatives from 12 local business and civic organizations including the Jefferson Chamber, spent several months studying, evaluating, analyzing and reviewing all aspects of the CCC operations and management.

On January 20, 2012, the CCC Task Force voted 7-1 in favor of recommending to the Legislature that tolls be renewed and not allowed to expire on December 31, 2012. It is the opinion of the Task Force majority that elimination of the tolls will result in a reduction in the level of current services funded by tolls, elimination of the region's ability to control its own destiny as to maintenance and capital improvements, reduction in ferry service, significant dependence on limited state funding and elimination of mandated toll-funded projects.

“Ultimately, the full board chose to join a collaboration of other regional business and civic groups in supporting the Task Force's recommendations for future Crescent City Connection operations,” Johnny Domiano, Jefferson Chamber Chair-Elect said. “The Chamber will, of course, monitor and consider the merits of any legislation that addresses the Task Force's report or Crescent City Connection operations in general as such legislation becomes available.”

The Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors agreed with the Task Force that “the renewal of tolls coupled with movement to “best practices” operation provides the best opportunity for the region to maintain the CCC as a vital link in the continued economic development of the region.”

“The Chamber is designed to support business” Manny Silver, Jefferson Chamber Chairman said. “When the membership identifies public issues, the Chamber's job is to avoid partisan politics and develop a specific position.”

The written report, which is comprised of the Crescent City Connection Task Force's findings and recommendations, was submitted to the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget pursuant to Louisiana Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 47.

You may read the full written report on the Chamber's website, www.jeffersonchamber.org.

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The Jefferson Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. We are private, non-profit membership driven organization representing over 1,000 businesses from the greater New Orleans, Louisiana area. For more information, please visit www.jeffersonchamber.org.