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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jefferson Chamber Opposes Efforts to Bring Politics Back to the Levee Boards

METAIRIE, LA – April 25, 2014 – The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors opposes Senate Bill No. 79 and Senate Bill No. 629, which would dissolve the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities, and put the administration of flood control directly under the Governor’s jurisdiction.

The Jefferson Chamber represents the largest parish in the New Orleans Region and is surrounded by water and the threat of water coming into our homes and businesses. These two bills by Senator Robert Adley of northwest Louisiana, greatly compromise the independence of the levee boards, whose service is important to the citizens and businesses of southeast Louisiana.

“In 2006, the Jefferson Chamber supported levee board reforms in light of catastrophic levee breaches caused by Hurricane Katrina,” said Jefferson Chamber President, Todd Murphy. “Voters went to the polls and sent a strong message to depoliticize the levee boards and replace them with professionals with industry experience; much more of a qualification than simply having political ties.”

Today, Senator Robert Adley, of Benton, LA, wants to erode the reforms that were pushed for by citizens from the area most impacted. Senate Bill No. 79 undermines the procedures that protect qualified board members, granting the governor the power to remove board members at his own initiative. If that were not enough, Senate Bill No. 629 essentially abolishes the East and West Bank Unified Levee Boards, and moves away from professionalism and into politics.

About the Jefferson Chamber:

The [Jefferson Chamber](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish’s business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The 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. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, follow on Facebook ([facebook.com/jeffersonchamber](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonchamber)) and on Twitter ([@jeffersoncoc](https://twitter.com/jeffersoncoc)).

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