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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jefferson Chamber Backs the Removal of Membership Fee from Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program

METAIRIE, LA – April 2, 2014 – The Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors voted to support Senate Bill No. 51, which would remove the authority of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program to charge participating retailers a \$100 membership fee.

Louisiana was the first state to adopt this program 25 years ago. The purpose of the program is to incentivize international visitors to travel to and spend more money in Louisiana.

“By removing the membership fee, all retailers will have access to international visitors for tax free purchases and to the visitor it will become a more streamlined program,” said Todd Matherne, Jefferson Chamber Chair Elect.

The Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program does not require these membership fees to operate. It is a state-funded program that also generates funds through handling/transaction fees and voucher fees.

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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