

1  
2 STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3 BOARD OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
4 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
5 TAKEN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023  
6 AT 617 NORTH 3RD STREET  
7 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

8 A P P E A R A N C E S:

S T A F F:

9 BOARD MEMBERS:  
10 Don Pierson, Secretary  
11 George Nassar  
12 Marshal Simien  
13 Ronnie Slone  
14 Vincent St. Blanc  
15 Rickey Fabra  
16 Naheen Nassar  
17 Stuart Moss  
18 David Toups  
19 Brandon Burris  
20 Jerald Jones, Chairman  
21 Ronnie Slone  
22 Marshall Simien  
23 John Walsh  
24 Beverly Thompson

Anne Villa  
Brenda Guess  
Travis Rosenberg  
Joyce Metoyer  
Tedra Cheatham  
Joleasia Campbell  
Hud Usie  
Kristin Cheng  
Deborah Simmons  
M. Adegbe  
Leticia Johnson  
Gabriel Necula  
Frank Favaloro

25 Roll Call, Deborah Simmons  
Quality Jobs Program, Michaela Adegbe  
Restoration Tax Abatement Program, Travis Rosenberg  
Enterprise Zone Program, Joyce Metoyer  
Industrial Tax Exemption, Kristin Cheng/Hud Usie

Reported by:

Kristine M. Ferachi, Certified Court Reporter

1  
2 STIPULATION  
3  
4 It is stipulated and agreed by and among  
5 the parties that the proceedings taken Wednesday,  
6 December 6, 2023 are hereby taken under the  
7 Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure for all purposes  
8 as permitted under law. The original is to be  
9 delivered to and retained by Office of Commerce &  
10 Industry  
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21 \* \* \* \* \*  
22 Kristine M. Ferachi, Certified Court  
23 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,  
24 officiated in administering the oath to the witness.  
25

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1 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023  
2 \* \* \* \* \*  
3 MR. JONES: Good to see everybody this  
4 morning. This is our December meeting of the  
5 Board of Commerce & Industry 2023, and I am  
6 going to say this now in case we run out of  
7 time later, but this may be the last meeting of  
8 this Board as presently constituted with the  
9 new administration coming in, and I want to say  
10 it has been my pleasure to work with each and  
11 every one of you over the last eight years;  
12 some of you not being here the entire eight  
13 years, but thank you for your patience with the  
14 chair. Thank you for your loyalty to the  
15 programs that we do, and to the staff at LED.  
16 I know you guys do the heavy lifting day-in and  
17 day-out before we ever get here, and we  
18 appreciate the work that you all have done for  
19 this Board for the last eight years. Thank you  
20 very much.  
21 So, with that, let's get this ball  
22 rolling. Ms. Simmons, let's call roll.  
23 MS. SIMMONS: Good morning, everyone.  
24 Happy Holidays.  
25 MR. BURRIS: Here.

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1 MS. SIMMONS: Mayor David Toups.  
2 MR. TOUPS: Present.  
3 MS. SIMMONS: Evette Cola. Guy McInnis.  
4 Rickey Fabra.  
5 MR. FABRA: Here.  
6 MS. SIMMONS: Manwell Fajardo. Stuart  
7 Moss.  
8 MR. MOSS: Here.  
9 MS. SIMMONS: Representative Vincent St.  
10 Blanc, proxy for Paula Davis.  
11 MR. ST. BLANC: Here.  
12 MS. SIMMONS: Senator Mike Reese. Kenneth  
13 Havard.  
14 MR. HAVARD: Here.  
15 MS. SIMMONS: Jerald Jones.  
16 MR. JONES: Present.  
17 MS. SIMMONS: Senator McQuain. Senator  
18 Bret Allain. Representative Stuart Bishop.  
19 Jan Moller. Secretary Don Pierson.  
20 MR. PIERSON: Present.  
21 MS. SIMMONS: Naheem Nassar.  
22 MR. NASSAR: Here.  
23 MS. SIMMONS: Marshal Simien.  
24 MR. SIMIEN: Here.  
25 MS. SIMMONS: Ronnie Slone.

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1 MR. SLONE: Present.  
2 MS. SIMMONS: John Walsh, designee for the  
3 Governor.  
4 MR. WALSH: Present.  
5 MS. SIMMONS: Dr. Woodrow Wilson. Travis  
6 Holley. Dr. Beverly Thompson.  
7 MS. THOMPSON: Here.  
8 MS. SIMMONS: We have a quorum.  
9 MR. JONES: Thank you.  
10 Members of the Board, you have received  
11 minutes from the last meeting. We will  
12 entertain a motion to approve those minutes. A  
13 motion from Mr. Slone; second from Mayor Toups.  
14 Any questions or comments from the Board? Any  
15 comments from the public? Hearing none. All  
16 in favor of the motion say aye. (Complies.)  
17 Any opposition? There being none, the motion  
18 carries. Good morning, Ms. Adegbe, how are  
19 you?  
20 MS. ADEGBE: Good morning. Well, and  
21 yourself?  
22 MR. JONES: Doing well, thank you.  
23 MS. ADEGBE: There is one new application.  
24 20210264, Ternium USA, Inc., Caddo Parish.  
25 MR. JONES: Do we have a motion to

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1 approve? A motion from Mr. Havard, second from  
 2 Mr. St. Blanc. Any questions or comments from  
 3 the Board? Hearing none. Any comments from  
 4 the public? Hearing none. All in favor say  
 5 aye. (Complies.) Any opposition? There is  
 6 none; the motion carries.  
 7 MS. ADEGBE: One renewal application.  
 8 20180441, Amedisys Holding Company, LLC, East  
 9 Baton Rouge Parish.  
 10 MR. JONES: Do we have a motion to  
 11 approve? Mayor Toups; second from Mr. Harvard.  
 12 Any questions or comments from the Board?  
 13 Hearing none. Any comments from the public?  
 14 There is none. All in favor say aye.  
 15 (Complies.) Any opposition? There is none.  
 16 The motion carries.  
 17 MS. ADEGBE: One change of company name  
 18 only. 20130518, current company name, Idaho  
 19 Timber of Coushatta, LLC. New company name,  
 20 Coushatta Forest Products, LLC, Red River  
 21 Parish.  
 22 MR. JONES: All right. Do we have a  
 23 motion to approve this change of name? Motion  
 24 from Mr. Simien; second from Mr. Nassar. Any  
 25 questions or comments from the Board? There

1 comments from the public? There being none.  
 2 All in favor say aye. (Complies.) Any  
 3 opposition? There being none, the motion  
 4 carries.  
 5 MR. ROSENBERG: There are three renewal  
 6 applications. 20121173 for Caillouet Land, LLC  
 7 in Lafourche Parish, 20170038 for Nu Homes, LLC  
 8 in Lafourche Parish, and 20170016 for Vantage  
 9 Health Plan, Inc. in Ouachita Parish.  
 10 MR. JONES: A motion to approve these  
 11 renewals? Motion from Mr. St. Blanc; second  
 12 from Mr. Simien. Any questions or comments  
 13 from the Board? Hearing none. Any comments  
 14 from the public? There being none. All in  
 15 favor say aye? (Complies.) Any opposition?  
 16 There being none, the motion carries.  
 17 MR. ROSENBERG: That concludes the RTA  
 18 agenda.  
 19 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg.  
 20 Morning, Ms. Metoyer.  
 21 MS. METOYER: Good morning. There are  
 22 four new applications for Enterprise Zone  
 23 20210345, Avenues Recovery, St. Tammany.  
 24 20190201, Allen Healthcare Partners, LLC, Allen  
 25 Parish. 20210327, BB Meats, LLC, Terrebonne

1 being none. Any comments from the public?  
 2 Hearing none. Any all in favor say aye.  
 3 (Complies.) Any opposition. There is none.  
 4 Motion carries.  
 5 MS. ADEGBE: This concludes quality jobs.  
 6 MR. JONES: Thank you, ma'am.  
 7 MS. ADEGBE: Thank you.  
 8 MR. JONES: Good morning, Mr. Rosenberg.  
 9 MR. ROSENBERG: Good morning.  
 10 MR. JONES: Let's see. Restoration tax  
 11 abatement. Help us out.  
 12 MR. ROSENBERG: Yes, sir. There are 17  
 13 new applications for the restoration tax  
 14 abatement program. These four are for Ash  
 15 Brothers, LLC in Ascension Parish, 20220448-A,  
 16 20220448-B, 20220448-C, and 20220448 RTA.  
 17 The next 13 are for RBR Governments, LP in  
 18 East Baton Rouge Parish. 20220226, 20220227,  
 19 20220239, 20220240, 20220241, 20220442,  
 20 20220243, 20220244, 20220245, 20220246,  
 21 20220247, 20220248 and 20220249.  
 22 MR. JONES: Thank you. Entertain a motion  
 23 to approve these RTAs. Motion, Mr. Fabra;  
 24 second from Mr. Slone. Any questions or  
 25 comments from the Board? Hearing none. Any

1 Parish. 20161119, the National World War II  
 2 Museum, Incorporated, Orleans Parish.  
 3 MR. JONES: All right. Do we have a  
 4 motion to approve these? Mr. Nassar. A second  
 5 from Mayor Toups. Any questions or comments  
 6 from the Board? There being none. Any  
 7 comments from the public? Hearing none. All  
 8 in favor say aye. (Complies.) Any opposition?  
 9 There being none, the motion carries.  
 10 MS. METOYER: We have three terminations.  
 11 20200051 ASH Industries, Incorporated,  
 12 Lafayette Parish. Existing contract is 2/10 of  
 13 '20 to 2/9 of 2025. The request to term date  
 14 is 8/10/2022. The program requirements have  
 15 been met. No additional jobs are anticipated.  
 16 20190140, South Side Machine Works,  
 17 Incorporated, Calcasieu Parish. The existing  
 18 contract is 9/25/19 through 9/24 of 2024. The  
 19 requested term date is 3/25/2022. The program  
 20 requirements have been met. No additional jobs  
 21 are anticipated.  
 22 20190421, Waskey Bridges, Incorporated,  
 23 East Baton Rouge Parish. The existing contract  
 24 is 2/5/20 to 2/4/2025. The requested term date  
 25 is August 5, 2022. The program requirements

1 have been met. No additional jobs are  
 2 anticipated.

3 MR. JONES: All right. So, the motion to  
 4 approve these contract terminations? Motion  
 5 from Mr. Moss; second from Mr. Havard. Any  
 6 questions or comments from the Board? Hearing  
 7 none. Any comments from the public? There  
 8 being none. All in favor say aye. (Complies.)  
 9 Any opposition? There being none, the motion  
 10 carries.

11 MS. METOYER: And that concludes EZ.

12 MR. JONES: Thank you. Good morning, Kim.

13 MS. CHENG: We have 12 new 2018 rules ITE  
 14 applications, but two requests for referral,  
 15 and that is 20190394, Honeywell International,  
 16 Inc., East Baton Rouge Parish, and 202203 --  
 17 20220394, McIlhenny Company, Iberia Parish.

18 MR. JONES: Let's make sure I am clear.  
 19 20190394 and 20220394?

20 MS. CHENG: That is correct.

21 MR. JONES: Entertain a motion to defer  
 22 the contracts for Honeywell International and  
 23 McIlhenny. A motion from Mr. Slone; second  
 24 from Mayor Toups. Any questions or comments  
 25 from the Board? Hearing none. Any comments

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1 from the public? There being none. All in  
 2 favor say aye. (Complies.) Any opposition?  
 3 There being none, the motion carries. Those  
 4 matters will be deferred to the meeting in  
 5 February.

6 MS. CHENG: We have ten remaining 2018  
 7 rules New ITE application. 20180323-C, Bagwell  
 8 Energy Services, Inc., Iberia Parish.  
 9 20220326, BEP Sale, LLC, East Baton Rouge  
 10 Parish. 20230245, Bopot, LLC, East Baton Rouge  
 11 Parish. 20230359, CapChem Technology, USA,  
 12 Inc., Ascension Parish. 20230392, CF  
 13 Industries Nitrogen, LLC, Ascension Parish.  
 14 20230090, Cyber Square, LLC, Bossier Parish.  
 15 2023067, Cyber Square, LLC, Bossier Parish.  
 16 20180148-B, Flopam, Inc., Iberville Parish.  
 17 20220075, MKS Plastics, LLC, Tangipahoa Parish,  
 18 and 20230256, UBE America, Inc., Jefferson  
 19 Parish.

20 MR. JONES: Before we entertain a motion,  
 21 the chair will be recusing himself from any  
 22 discussion or vote on the matter of 2023039,  
 23 CapChem Technology, USA, Inc., but do we have a  
 24 motion to approve these applications? A motion  
 25 from Mr. Slone; second is from Dr. Thompson.

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1 Any questions or comments from the Board?  
 2 Hearing none. Any comments from the public?

3 MS. CHENG: I think I might have read the  
 4 wrong number for MKS plastics. It is 20230775  
 5 in Tangipahoa.

6 MR. JONES: 20230075, MKS Plastics?  
 7 MS. CHENG: That is correct.

8 MR. JONES: Got you. I do not believe  
 9 that affects the motion, so we have a motion;  
 10 second. All in favor say aye. (Complies.)  
 11 Any opposition? There being none, the motion  
 12 carries.

13 MS. CHEN: We have eight Pre-EO ITE  
 14 renewals. 20160001, C&C Marine and Repair,  
 15 Plaquemines Parish. 20161510, Epic Piping,  
 16 LLC, Livingston Parish. 20140977-B, ExPert  
 17 Riser Solutions, LLC, Lafourche Parish.  
 18 20150156-B-PT, Louisiana Integrated  
 19 Polyethylene JV, LLC, Calcasieu Parish.  
 20 20150264-B Matteson Tri-Gas, Inc., Calcasieu  
 21 Parish. 20100198-D, Sabine Pass LNG, LP,  
 22 Cameron Parish. 20110659-F Sabine Pass  
 23 Liquefaction, LLC, Cameron Parish, and  
 24 20150156-B, Sasol USA Corporation, Calcasieu  
 25 Parish.

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1 MR. JONES: All right. Do we have a  
 2 motion on these renewals? A motion to approve  
 3 Mr. Moss; a second from Mr. Nassar. Any  
 4 questions or comments from the Board? Hearing  
 5 none. Any comments from the public? Hearing  
 6 none. All in favor say aye. (Complies.) Any  
 7 opposition? There being none, the motion  
 8 carries.

9 MS. CHENG: We have one transfer tax  
 10 exemption contract request. Triton West, LLC,  
 11 20151505-PT, is transferring to Equilon  
 12 Enterprise, LLC d/b/a Shell Oil Products US,  
 13 St. Charles Parish.

14 MR. JONES: We have a motion to approve  
 15 this transfer from Mr. Nassar; second from  
 16 Mayor Toups. Any questions or comments from  
 17 the Board? Hearing none. Any comments from  
 18 the public? There being none. All in favor  
 19 say aye. (Complies.) Any opposition? There  
 20 being none, the motion carries.

21 MS. CHENG: We have four cancellation of  
 22 contract requests. Bollinger Algiers, LLC,  
 23 20151878, company requests cancellation in  
 24 Orleans Parish. Diversify Foods and  
 25 Seasonings, LLC, 20180149 and 20180149-A in St.

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<p>1 Tammany Parish. Company requests cancellation.  2 And John H Carter Co, Inc., 20180275 in  3 Calcasieu Parish, company requests  4 cancellation.  5 MR. JONES: All right. Do we have a  6 motion to approve these cancelations from Mr.  7 Simien; second from Mr. Moss. Any questions or  8 comments from the Board? Hearing none. Any  9 comments from the public? There being none.  10 All in favor say aye. (Complies.) Any  11 opposition? There being none, the motion  12 carries.  13 MS. CHENG: That concludes the IPE I10  14 portion.  15 MR. JONES: Thank you both very much.  16 Ladies and gentlemen, that is the shortest  17 agenda and the quickest meeting that we have  18 had. I will now give Mr. Pierson two hours to  19 give us a report. Take all the time you need.  20 MR. PIERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  21 Your experience and eloquence here have been  22 evident, and your record of service has brought  23 you to a place where we are very, very  24 efficient, so thank you for that service  25 report.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 present and future, and your annual report will  2 show our progress from capital investment, job  3 creation, workforce development, small business  4 support, federal partnerships, and economic  5 development innovation across Louisiana. This  6 is our recent past. The document will be  7 released digitally today around noon, but I was  8 convinced that this Board was the right place  9 for it to be introduced.  10 We have increased capital investment every  11 year since 2017 in our state, including three  12 consecutive years now of more than twenty  13 billion dollars for the first time in the  14 State's history. We have the lowest  15 unemployment rate in our State's history. This  16 is evidence of your good work.  17 For the present, I saw yesterday's news  18 release that according to the Bureau of  19 Economic Analysis, and by the way, that is the  20 US Department of Commerce, the data that they  21 released shows that Louisiana's gross domestic  22 product grew 3.2 percent in the second quarter  23 of 2023 outpacing 40 other states, and easily  24 exceeding the national GDP growth rate of 2.1  25 percent. You are on track. That includes on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>
<p>1 It was both a blessing and a curse that  2 they did not tell me everything when I signed  3 up for this job. Maybe that is a good thing,  4 but in any event, it has been my honor and  5 privilege to serve as the secretary for  6 Louisiana Economic Development, and at this  7 point in my service to LED and the State of  8 Louisiana, I am going to bring that service to  9 an end. I wish to express my deepest gratitude  10 to the Board of Commerce &amp; Industry, our  11 stakeholders, corporations that I have worked  12 closely with, the consultant community. I  13 think you have been valued by our  14 administration, and certainly as the Chairman  15 has mentioned, the LED staff. Your dedication,  16 teamwork and effort have made a great deal of  17 success possible. Those are more than words  18 from a department leader. I am presenting you  19 today with our annual, LED Annual Report, and  20 it is not LED's Annual Report; it is your  21 Annual Report. Much of the work here, much of  22 the success was made possible by this Board and  23 the people in this room and those that are  24 following our meeting electronically and  25 beyond. I often frame my remarks in past,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 that list of 40 putting us in the top ten.  2 Ones we outpaced are Florida, Georgia,  3 Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina,  4 North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia,  5 New York, California, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon  6 and Washington. Sound like a lot of the SBC  7 (sic) in there to me.  8 As for the future, as Warren Scott  9 recently predicted that Louisiana will add  10 eight thousand more jobs in 2024 and 2025  11 thanks to our success positioning Louisiana as  12 a leader in the global energy transition.  13 This work, these exceptional  14 accomplishments were made possible by the  15 Governor's leadership, the legislators' support  16 and the exceptional work that you do, those  17 here in this room and beyond.  18 As I depart service to the State of  19 Louisiana, after directing my career to the  20 betterment of the citizens and every member or  21 every community across the State, I am proud to  22 report that the State of our economy is strong,  23 and the outlook ahead is bright.  24 Again, your commitment to Louisiana and  25 professionalism have made this possible. You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>

1 have made a profound impact on the lives of so  
 2 many individuals that have jobs, careers,  
 3 opportunity in our state, as well as the  
 4 improvement in the quality of life those jobs  
 5 bring to thousands of households across our  
 6 State.  
 7 In closing I want to take this opportunity  
 8 to thank you for your invaluable contributions,  
 9 and ask that you continue to support the  
 10 efforts of the Louisiana Economic Development  
 11 going forward. Thank you.  
 12 (Applause.)  
 13 MR. JONES: It is difficult for me to call  
 14 him Secretary or even Mr. Pierson because I  
 15 have known him as Don for decades, and he and I  
 16 had our roots in Northwest Louisiana where we  
 17 worked together there before each of us found  
 18 our way to Baton Rouge.  
 19 But I will tell you, Don, that it has been  
 20 a pleasure to work with you for the past eight  
 21 years. Thank you for your service. Thank you  
 22 for the work that you do and you have led your  
 23 team to do for this state. We have seen  
 24 exceptional growth. I think the next  
 25 administration will see fantastic results

1 economically because of the work that this  
 2 department has done under your tenure. Thank  
 3 you very much.  
 4 MR. PIERSON: I appreciate it.  
 5 MR. JONES: Anything else for the good of  
 6 the order?  
 7 MR. ST. BLANC: Mr. Chairman.  
 8 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.  
 9 MR. ST. BLANC: I would like to say a few  
 10 words because this is my last meeting. You  
 11 know I talk low and it comes from my heart. So  
 12 y'all understand me, everything comes from my  
 13 heart, but I want to thank you, Chairman, Mr.  
 14 Don, and especially the staff and everybody  
 15 that sits in this room.  
 16 As a freshman legislator coming in here  
 17 and had the chance that a chairman gave us,  
 18 gave me the opportunity to be her proxy,  
 19 because she said that I knew what I was doing  
 20 and some people do not believe it, but, and I  
 21 had to come in, and when I came in, especially  
 22 Senator Hollier, because we had solar and wind  
 23 and now I call them capture coming in, and  
 24 y'all trusted me because Louisiana was not  
 25 ready. We had 125 MISO (sic) site locations,

1 and we wanted to protect landowners and we  
 2 wanted to protect the State of Louisiana with  
 3 these contracts, because my family has been --  
 4 my brother was executive secretary of the  
 5 Public Service Commission for 30 years, and  
 6 they were dealing with this, and had the  
 7 understanding that ITE was job driven, and so,  
 8 it has but one job on each site, and it costs a  
 9 million dollars just to get an application for  
 10 MISO to do -- so they were coming in here with  
 11 two men in a truck, big solar companies and  
 12 everything were trying to think, and all this  
 13 was to help. What we did was save a lot of  
 14 landowners, because they were coming in here  
 15 and there is no place other than the United  
 16 States that understands oil and gas leases,  
 17 understands everything that we did, so we put  
 18 in, we passed bills, passed them in the thing.  
 19 Now we are protected and we are ready for solar  
 20 and wind.  
 21 Now, I do not know how I can thank y'all  
 22 and we can come in here and y'all believe this,  
 23 and now we ready, and I want to thank y'all.  
 24 This Board -- I have served on a lot of  
 25 Boards and this Board really is compassionate,

1 knows what they are doing, and we do not know  
 2 what is going to happen in the building out  
 3 there. I am hoping I am on Commerce again, but  
 4 we do not know. The process is being changed,  
 5 so what we do is, we all love Louisiana and we  
 6 do what we got to do, but that process over  
 7 there in that building, it is hard to change, I  
 8 can tell you.  
 9 I would like to really talk about just for  
 10 a few minutes, and I really want you to listen  
 11 to these numbers, and this started with Mike  
 12 Foster when we formed the Community and  
 13 Technical College. State of Louisiana, these  
 14 boards, everything we want to stop our  
 15 congregation -- and keep our kids. We want  
 16 insurance and crime and all this stuff we are  
 17 talking about. But the numbers I am going to  
 18 tell you right now is a people problem. Until  
 19 we solve this, we cannot be able to move.  
 20 The age from 25 to 64, working age,  
 21 42 percent of that to a million, eight hundred  
 22 and forty thousand eligible people to work.  
 23 And I go to work; them who do not want to work,  
 24 or they want to live in the welfare system.  
 25 What we have to do is, they can earn forty-two

1 thousand five hundred dollars on the system.  
 2 Every job that Community Technical College  
 3 workforce will guarantee sixty-five thousand  
 4 when you start. We have to move these, just a  
 5 third of them. If we can get a third into jobs  
 6 that these companies and everybody needs, then  
 7 we will be successful.

8 So, when you out and you hear of anybody  
 9 that is looking for a job, doing everything,  
 10 the Community and Technical College system will  
 11 train you for free on most of everything with  
 12 the Foster comp, everything. Until we change  
 13 this people problem, and change just maybe a  
 14 third of them from forty-two thousand that we  
 15 think nothing to sixty-five thousand taxpayers  
 16 there. The taxes that they will pay is going  
 17 to put us at a level that we can start.  
 18 Eliminating income tax can start eliminating  
 19 less taxes.

20 But this is our problem. When you give an  
 21 ITE and everything and you did your job, just  
 22 remember that we still have this most important  
 23 job to do, is to get eight hundred and forty  
 24 thousand, some of them back to work in  
 25 Louisiana, and then we have all the stuff.

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1 I was with a business last week, they are  
 2 a thousand short right now. They are going to  
 3 hire a thousand people today, train them for  
 4 free, and have them ready, and they will start  
 5 at sixty-five thousand, and over time they will  
 6 go to a hundred thousand.

7 So, this is the problem. I ask for  
 8 y'all's help. Remember these figures, eight  
 9 hundred and forty thousand that are not in our  
 10 work force. Forty-two percent of people that  
 11 can work are not in the workforce.

12 I want to thank y'all for giving me the  
 13 time, and this is an extremely good Board.  
 14 Very compassionate. Every business that came  
 15 here got a good look and was really given a  
 16 good chance, and if it is possible, I might be  
 17 back. If not, thank y'all for letting the  
 18 freshman legislator come in here and y'all  
 19 trusted me and trusted and we saved a lot of  
 20 business and we saved a lot of landowners. So,  
 21 we are -- we were not ready. And as of right  
 22 now, MISO has shut down solar right now for a  
 23 year. They had 340 solar projects in the State  
 24 of Louisiana, and you got to pay a million  
 25 dollars just to get the permit.

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1 So, you know what kind of money that is  
 2 coming in. We ready. We made the laws. Now  
 3 let's welcome them in. Thank you.

4 MR. JONES: Mr. Nassar.

5 MR. NASSAR: Yes. Before I get started, I  
 6 would like to thank Representative St. Blanc in  
 7 the work that he has done on the House  
 8 Education Committee for Public Schools, and  
 9 just to kind of take it back a little bit on  
 10 what the representative said, and I know this  
 11 goes on throughout the State of Louisiana in  
 12 public schools, but I will just take my own  
 13 parish, St. James school district.

14 If it were not for business and industry,  
 15 we would not be able to offer what I am getting  
 16 ready to get into, and Jerry Jones, you are  
 17 very, very familiar with our district; we go  
 18 way back. But we have a company, we have  
 19 different companies that work with our Career  
 20 Technology Center. We have welding. We have  
 21 industrial coating, industrial insulating,  
 22 scaffold building at cost efficient, zero  
 23 moneys. Apache, a company that does insulating  
 24 and painting, scaffold building, any industry  
 25 actually comes in and train our students that

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1 is not going to go to college on how to do  
 2 those job skills. They buy their tools for  
 3 them when they finish the course. They buy  
 4 their quick card for them, and they train them.  
 5 Get them a job starting at over forty thousand  
 6 dollars a year. These kids go work in  
 7 industry, some of them end up working for the  
 8 refineries or the chemical manufacturers that  
 9 they were actually working for the contractor.  
 10 Some of them will go back to college and become  
 11 engineers.

12 My whole point is, there is a way and  
 13 there is a path to doing exactly what  
 14 Representative St. Blanc said; we just need to  
 15 stay on top of it.

16 But with that being said, Jerry, I would  
 17 like to thank you for the way you conducted  
 18 meetings. I want to thank you for the  
 19 questions you asked. It stops a lot of the  
 20 discussion that we need to have because of the  
 21 questions you do ask.

22 For the industries, business and industry  
 23 that comes before the Board of Commerce &  
 24 Industry, I hope you realize that we do take  
 25 each individual case and look at it from an

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1 individual standpoint, and we just make our  
 2 decision based on the merits of the case.  
 3 To everybody personally, the staff, it has  
 4 been an eyeopening experience for me the work  
 5 that y'all do, y'all track business and  
 6 industry, and to work with business and  
 7 industry to get them here, to keep them here.  
 8 The job growth is just unbelievable. I never  
 9 realized the work that went into what y'all do  
 10 to attract business.  
 11 I have worked in the chemical industry for  
 12 thirty-eight-and-a-half years and I worked  
 13 construction before that; I am only 40 years  
 14 old, so go figure. Seriously, I worked  
 15 construction, I worked for the chemical  
 16 industry, and until you actually get into the  
 17 nuts and bolts of it here and see what takes  
 18 place to actually attract business, I want to  
 19 commend you and your staff, and thank y'all  
 20 from the bottom of my heart for doing what  
 21 y'all do for the State of Louisiana. It has  
 22 been a pleasure serving with the members, and  
 23 with that, hopefully I will see y'all again.  
 24 If not, it has been a pleasure, and may y'all  
 25 have a Merry and Blessed Christmas to you and

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1 your families. Thank you.  
 2 MR. JONES: Mr. Nassar, it just dawned on  
 3 me that if you are not doing anything Christmas  
 4 Eve, my grandkids would love for you to come  
 5 visit their house.  
 6 MR. NASSAR: I have been Santa Claus at  
 7 school already, but I will do it again.  
 8 MR. JONES: That white beard is amazing.  
 9 It really is. Thank you, Mr. Nassar.  
 10 Anything else? If not, recognize a motion  
 11 -- I am sorry, excuse me.  
 12 MR. LEONARD: I was not planning to come  
 13 up here today, but anyway, my name is Jimmy  
 14 Leonard. I am with Advanced Consulting, and  
 15 one thing I want to make sure that y'all know  
 16 coming from my heart and from my experience  
 17 working with each and every one of y'all for  
 18 the last eight years is this Board had to  
 19 manage through some very unprecedented issues  
 20 throughout this term, and I cannot thank you  
 21 all enough for your commitments, your time,  
 22 professionalism, and the way that y'all  
 23 conducted the business throughout all of this.  
 24 I will not say that every matter and policy or  
 25 political in perfect alignment, but the way

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1 that the business was conducted, and the way  
 2 that this Board managed that process was very  
 3 much appreciated all across all of our clients  
 4 and my leagues and friends in the industry.  
 5 So, whereas I am not going to speak for  
 6 everybody, I think everybody on this Board who  
 7 has been through this process deserves a big  
 8 thank you and appreciation for your service and  
 9 your commitment. I know that this is such a  
 10 well-paying job for everybody who is traveling  
 11 out here throughout the State. So, thank y'all  
 12 very much. I sincerely appreciate it.  
 13 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Leonard. Very  
 14 kind of you. Ma'am, state your name for the  
 15 record please.  
 16 MS. CARTER: Good morning. Amanda Carter  
 17 and I am with Cheniere Energy. I was planning  
 18 to come to the table this morning as a  
 19 pre-executor for an ITE renewal. I wanted to  
 20 just take the opportunity to thank y'all for  
 21 the work that you have done. It has been very  
 22 important to our organization.  
 23 I came ready with some stats, and so, I  
 24 will be happy to share those with y'all. To me  
 25 the most important things, that we will be

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1 making 400 shipments of LNG out of our  
 2 facilities in Cameron Parish this year alone.  
 3 We recently achieved 3000 cargoes earlier this  
 4 year. We have broke everybody's record because  
 5 we did those 3000 cargoes in right around 2,500  
 6 days. We have been a little busy, but none of  
 7 that happens without the support of this  
 8 organization.  
 9 When I started with Cheniere, we had never  
 10 made a drop of LNG. We still had to dream. We  
 11 were still under construction. That was ten  
 12 years ago and to see where we are at now, and  
 13 the foundation that you have established has  
 14 actually afforded us the opportunity to  
 15 envision further expansion.  
 16 We have announced and have plans to build  
 17 an additional 20 electric tons of LNG a year in  
 18 Cameron Parish and we are looking forward to  
 19 putting that application in for the full -- a  
 20 full application. We have pre-filed, but the  
 21 full going on this year.  
 22 I worked with y'all on the pre-executive  
 23 order condition of our project that was very  
 24 important to us, so I want to thank you for  
 25 that. I know that that was not an easy process

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1 to go through with the rigger. We look forward  
 2 to being a new rule applicant when we come  
 3 before you for Stage 5, whether y'all are here  
 4 or not, or those who follow you. I know that  
 5 the groundwork here will serve us all well, so  
 6 I would like to thank you for that. It has  
 7 been a pleasure.

8 MR. JONES: Thank you. Thank you for what  
 9 Cheniere has been doing.

10 MR. SLONE: I just realized that my very  
 11 first meeting eight years ago was six hours  
 12 long. It was six hours long, and I do not know  
 13 what to say about today. I am trying to hold  
 14 us on a little longer if you will, at least 45  
 15 minutes.

16 But the point is is that I have learned so  
 17 much being here. Do not know why I was  
 18 selected to be here and then all the sudden I  
 19 get to be vice-chair if you will, and I am so  
 20 glad this man is healthy, because there is no  
 21 way I could have navigated some of the board  
 22 meetings and some of the contentiousness of  
 23 some of the material that we had, but my  
 24 biggest thanks goes to the staff. Many of you  
 25 may remember Danielle. I used to call Danielle

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1 every week just to get myself -- hey. I am  
 2 sorry. Sorry, folks. Yes. I used to call  
 3 Danielle every week just to talk about the  
 4 material that was in the packets that were  
 5 coming up because I just did not know. And so,  
 6 I have learned a lot.

7 Appreciate the staff and what they have  
 8 done under your leadership, sir, and everybody  
 9 around here, I have gotten a chance to shake  
 10 hands and we will see each other, recognize  
 11 faces if you do not remember names, and that is  
 12 important to me. But the staff really, we have  
 13 grown if you will as an organization under your  
 14 leadership and the various changes, and I just  
 15 appreciate it, and again, thank you for being  
 16 healthy, Brother.

17 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Slone.  
 18 Anything else? Mr. Simien?

19 MR. SIMIEN: I am from the Southwest  
 20 Louisiana area, and I want to reflect on not  
 21 just the Board that works like this Board does  
 22 and the staff, but also, the persons, both  
 23 directly and indirectly.

24 Among many hats I wear, I am the chairman  
 25 of Communities Foundation of Southwest

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1 Louisiana, and we have a workforce development  
 2 program that was initiated by one of our  
 3 corporate citizens in our area Sasol Industry,  
 4 and what we did was, it put -- it came into the  
 5 community, not just as somebody who said, look,  
 6 we want to create jobs an investment that we  
 7 normally do, we want to become a part of the  
 8 fabric of the community, so in the workforce  
 9 development program that was created, going  
 10 back to what you were saying about the eight  
 11 hundred thousand that the workforce, they took  
 12 the fact of bringing people into the Community  
 13 College system to get training. There is  
 14 welding, trucking, things like that, and took a  
 15 holistic approach because some people, when  
 16 life comes in and takes over, some people  
 17 cannot prioritized. So, not only were people  
 18 encouraged to come in and get into the  
 19 workforce development program, but they also,  
 20 if they had, it was to make sure that they  
 21 stayed in the program.

22 So, some of it is you look at it, I got  
 23 childcare issues, and we had people helped  
 24 working those issues. I have got other issues  
 25 that I have to deal with, and we have dealt

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1 with all of these things, and what was  
 2 happening, people graduated. We had one, it  
 3 was to the point where every welding class that  
 4 came out, all of the certified welders had jobs  
 5 even before they even walked the stage, and we  
 6 have a report I think to the rotary club, and  
 7 at the time they have 95 people that passed  
 8 through the program. And our executive  
 9 director is saying, well, we have had 95  
 10 people; I made the correction, we have had 95  
 11 families come through this program. Because  
 12 you created a breadwinner in the program, you  
 13 did that to that family, and that becomes a  
 14 generation blessing.

15 But all of that starts here, because if  
 16 the industry does not come from care, and it is  
 17 good to see us in the top ten in something in  
 18 this country, especially in economics, but that  
 19 is just the surface of it, and as these  
 20 corporations come in and become good corporate  
 21 citizens into the community, the communities  
 22 will raise and the State will raise.

23 So, I want to thank you, Secretary  
 24 Pierson, I want to thank you for letting us  
 25 serve on this Board, because it has been good

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<p>1 to see from all aspects about where it starts  2 and benefits that go through, and once you  3 create solid roots, even a mustard seed becomes  4 as mighty as it wants to be, so thank you.  5 MR. JONES: Thank you very much. Anything  6 else? All right. I will entertain a motion to  7 adjourn. So moved; second is Mayor Toups. All  8 if favor say aye. (Complies.) Merry  9 Christmas, everybody. Have a great Holiday  10 Season.  11 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 indirect, between a court reporting firm and any  2 party litigant in this matter, nor is there any such  3 relationship between myself and a party litigant in  4 this matter; that I am not related to counsel or to  5 the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in  6 the outcome of this matter.  7 This certification is valid only for a  8 transcript accompanied by my original signature and  9 original required seal on this page.  10 Signed: December 22, 2023  11  12  13  14 _____  15 Kristine M. Ferachi, CCR #87173  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>
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<p>1  2  3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  4 I, Kristine M. Ferachi, Certified Court  5 Reporter, Certificate Number 87173, in and for the  6 State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this  7 proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that this  8 proceeding set forth in the foregoing 36 pages was  9 taken on December 6, 2023; that this proceeding was  10 reported by me in stenographic machine shorthand,  11 was prepared and transcribed by me or under my  12 personal direction and supervision, and is a true  13 and correct transcript to the best of my ability and  14 understanding; that the transcript has been prepared  15 in compliance with transcript format guidelines  16 required by statute or by the rules of the board,  17 and that I am informed about the complete  18 arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the  19 person or entity making arrangements for deposition  20 services; that I have acted in compliance with the  21 prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined  22 by Louisiana Code of Procedure Article 1434 and in  23 the rules and advisory opinions of the board; that I  24 have no actual knowledge of any prohibited  25 employment or contractual relationship, direct or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>	
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[& - actually]

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[come - december]

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[december - expansion]

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[ones - professionalism]

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[today - workforce]

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**[workforce - zone]**

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