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10 BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MEETING TAKEN
11 AT THE LOUISIANA STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT
12 SYSTEM, 8401 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD, 4TH FLOOR,
13 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON APRIL 24, 2012
14 COMMENCING AT 1:32 P.M.

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17 REPORTED BY:

18 RACHEL Y. TORRES, CCR, RPR
19 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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MILLIE ATKINS
LANCE BELCHER
BRYAN BOSSIER
RICHARD GONSULIN
CHARLES SOPRANO
ANDRE FRUGE
JEFFREY ELMORE
STEVEN GRISSOM
JERALD JONES
R.K. MEHROTRA
GALE POTTS-ROQUE
WILLIAM KING
WILDA SMITH

16 KEVIN LANGLEY

17 ANDRE FRUGE

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1 STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 LORI WEBER

4 ROSHONDA HANIBLE

5 SAJNI PATEL

6 RICK BROUSSARD

7 BRENDA GUESS

8 ANNE VILLA

9 FRANK FAVALORO

10 FELIPE MARTINEZ

11 BECKY LAMBERT

12 MELISSA SORRELL

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1 MR. JONES:

2 Let's bring the meeting to

3 order. I hope everybody is doing

4 well. The trip from Shreveport

5 was good, so I hope everybody is

6 great.

7 This is my first time to
8 Chair this meeting. I'm Jerry
9 Jones. I am an attorney up in
10 Shreveport, so if I make any
11 mistakes along the way, I hope to
12 be forgiven. Ronnie Harris is not
13 here, the past chairman, so he
14 said, Jones, you're on your own
15 so y'all work with me. I got
16 great people flanking me so we'll
17 try to get through the meeting
18 without any major mistakes.

19 So first let's start with the
20 roll call. Ms. Sorrell, will you
21 take of it, please.

22 MS. SORRELL:

23 Tammy Woods. Steve Windham.
24 Millie Atkins.

25 MS. ATKINS:

0005
1 I'm here.

2 MS. SORRELL:

3 Lance Belcher.

4 MR. BELCHER:

5 Present.

6 MS. SORRELL:

7 Bryan Bossier.

8 MR. BOSSIER:

9 Here.

10 MS. SORRELL:

11 Gordon Burgess. Mark
12 Delesdernier. Jeffrey Elmore.

13 MR. ELMORE:

14 Here.

15 MS. SORRELL:

16 Andre Fruge. Richard
17 Gonsulin.

18 MR. GONSULIN:

19 Here.

20 MS. SORRELL:

21 Mayor Ronnie Harris. Jerald
22 Jones.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Here.
25 MS. SORRELL:

0006

1 William King.
2 MR. KING:
3 Here.
4 MS. SORRELL:
5 Kevin Langley.
6 MR. LANGLEY:
7 Here.
8 MS. SORRELL:
9 Richard Lipsey. R.K.
10 Mehrotra.

11 MR. MEHROTRA:
12 Here.
13 MS. SORRELL:
14 Steven Grissom.
15 MR. GRISSOM:
16 Here.
17 MS. SORRELL:
18 Gale Potts-Roque.
19 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
20 Here.
21 MS. SORRELL:
22 Wilda Smith.
23 MS. SMITH:
24 Here.
25 MS. SORRELL:

0007

1 Charles Soprano.
2 MR. SOPRANO:
3 Here.
4 MS. SORRELL:
5 We have a quorum.
6 MR. JONES:
7 Thank you, Ms. Sorrell. We
8 have a quorum. The minutes was
9 distributed to everyone. I hope
10 you have had an opportunity to
11 read them. If so, I would
12 entertain a motion to approve. We
13 have a motion from Mr. King. We
14 have a second from Ms.

15 Potts-Roque. Any discussion? All
16 in favor say aye.

17 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

18 Aye.

19 MR. JONES:

20 Any oppose? That is
21 unanimous.

22 Mr. Favaloro, please talk to
23 us about the Quality Jobs
24 Program, please.

25 MR. FAVALORO:

0008

1 Yes, sir. I have six Quality
2 Jobs applications. 20110143,
3 CARBO Ceramics Inc. In Iberia.
4 20090920, it should read S&F
5 Holding Company and Flopam Inc.,
6 not Flopam Inc. as it is stated
7 on the document, in Iberville
8 Parish. 20101131, New Generation
9 Ship Building, LLC in Terrebonne.
10 20110680, Ormet Primary Aluminum
11 Corporation in Ascension.
12 20100955, Plains All American GP,
13 LLC doing business as Plains Gas
14 Solutions, LLC in Acadia.
15 20111077, the Pangburn Group,
16 Inc. in Pointe Coupee.

17 That concludes the
18 applications.

19 MR. JONES:

20 Okay. At the outset, the
21 Chair will be recusing himself
22 from the number 20110680, Ormet
23 Primary Aluminum Corporation.
24 Otherwise, I will just be
25 facilitating the discussion and

0009

1 will not be participating in the
2 discussion.

3 Do we have a motion to
4 approve? We have a motion from
5 Ms. Atkins. We have a second from

6 Mr. Elmore. Do we have any
7 comments from the audience? Any
8 discussion from the Board? All in
9 favor say aye.

10 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

11 Aye.

12 MR. JONES:

13 Any oppose? There are none.

14 Go ahead.

15 MR. FAVALORO:

16 I have one Quality Jobs

17 Renewal. 070389, the GEO Group,

18 Inc. & Related Entities in

19 LaSalle Parish.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Do we have a motion? We have
22 a motion from Mr. Elmore. Second
23 from Ms. Millie. Ms. Atkins,
24 thank you.

25 All right. Any discussion

0010
1 from the floor? Any discussion
2 from the Board? All in favor say
3 aye.

4 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

5 Aye.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Any opposed? No opposition.

8 All right. Continue.

9 MR. FAVALORO:

10 I have one request to Cancel
11 Contracts. Denbury Onshore, LLC,
12 20080811. The company requested
13 cancellation. They wish to
14 participate in the Enterprise
15 Zone Program. Richland Parish.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Okay. Do we have a motion to
18 -- we have a motion from Ms.
19 Potts-Roque. Second from Mr.
20 Elmore. Any comments from the
21 floor? Any discussion from the
22 Board? All in favor say aye.

23 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

24 Aye.

25 MR. JONES:

0011

1 Any oppose? There is no
2 opposition.

3 All right. Ms. Lambert, you
4 want to talk to us about the
5 Restoration Tax Abatement
6 Program.

7 MS. LAMBERT:

8 Yes, sir. I have nine
9 applications. Application No.
10 20090295, 339 Carondelet
11 Holdings, LLC. 20110046, 826
12 Baronne Offices. 20100006, BLUE
13 PLATE LOFTS, LLC. 20100965,
14 Corinne Morrison. 20100838, Forty
15 Five, LLC. 20110673, Michael
16 Bolan, Owner Occupant. 20110013,
17 Go Mango III, LLC. 20080649, St.
18 Claude/St. Roche Revitalization,
19 LLC. 20091083, STC Julia, LLC.
20 All nine are in Orleans Parish.

21 MR. JONES:

22 Do we have motion to approve?
23 Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

25 Before we make the motion, I

0012

1 would like to ask if she would
2 read Carondelet Holdings'
3 application number again, please.

4 MS. LAMBERT:

5 20090295.

6 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

7 Thank you.

8 MR. JONES:

9 Thank you. Do we have a
10 motion to approve? Mr. King. Ms.
11 Smith, I'm sorry. All right.

12 Any discussion from the floor
13 on these nine applications? Any

14 discussion from the Board? All in
15 favor say aye.

16 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

17 Aye.

18 MR. JONES:

19 Any oppose? It passes
20 unanimously.

21 MS. LAMBERT:

22 Then I have six applications
23 for Renewal for Restoration Tax
24 Abatement. All but one are in
25 East Baton Rouge Parish. The

0013

1 first one is 19990184 at Bon
2 Carre' Business Center, LLC.
3 20010165, 229 Milam, LLC. This
4 one is in Caddo Parish.
5 20030542A, Melrose Urban Limited
6 Partnership 1. And 20030542,
7 Melrose Urban Limited Partnership
8 1. 040837 CH Hotel Management,
9 LLC. And 050902, Mapp Properties,
10 LLC, Mapp Construction, LLC.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Ms. Lambert, I just wanted
13 you to know that in Caddo Parish
14 Milam is Milam.

15 MS. LAMBERT:

16 Thank you.

17 MR. JONES:

18 After the great Alamo hero.
19 Most of the streets in downtown
20 Shreveport are named after heroes
21 from the Alamo.

22 MS. LAMBERT:

23 Thank you. So noted.

24 MR. JONES:

25 You are very welcome. I would

0014

1 want you to know that.

2 All right. Do I recognize a
3 motion to approve? Ms. Smith.
4 Second -- we have a second, Mr.

5 Fruge. I know we have some
6 comments from Mr. Belton.

7 MR. BELTON:

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
9 members of the Board. Thank you.
10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
11 members of the Board.

12 My name is Will Belton. I am
13 based here in Baton Rouge, and I
14 wanted to talk to you a little
15 bit about Melrose Urban Limited
16 Partnership 1. There are two
17 renewal applications that we have
18 for Restoration Tax Abatement.
19 The apartment is set in Melrose
20 east economic development
21 district behind Bon Carre' mall.
22 I paid the taxes on the protest
23 and I needed to have your body
24 know that and put in the records
25 that we paid on the protest. The

0015
1 local government, City of Baton
2 Rouge has adopted the resolution
3 to authorize the taxes, and we
4 want to extend them as we apply
5 for them. Thank you very much and
6 we appreciate your support. Any
7 questions?

8 MR. JONES:

9 Any questions for Mr. Belton?

10 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

11 What was the purpose of
12 paying them on a protest?

13 MR. BELTON:

14 Well, the city, for whatever
15 reasons, number of reasons, had
16 delays on processing the renewal
17 application, and there were at
18 least two years, and these
19 properties are Section 42 tax
20 credit properties, and you got to
21 pay. You -- you know, you wait

22 later and correct it later, so we
23 paid them on the protest because
24 of that.

25 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

0016

1 And what I'm understanding
2 you today, what you want from us
3 is to acknowledge here at the
4 Board that those taxes were paid
5 under protest.

6 MR. BELTON:

7 That's correct.

8 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

9 Okay. I guess all we need to
10 do is say for the record let it
11 be known that Mr. Will Belton
12 representing Melrose --

13 MR. BELTON:

14 Urban Limited Partnership.

15 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

16 Yeah. Paid taxes under
17 protest for these renewed
18 applications that were just
19 approved.

20 MR. BELTON:

21 That's correct.

22 MR. JONES:

23 Well, they have not yet been
24 approved, but they are subject
25 for discussion right now.

0017

1 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

2 Pardon?

3 MR. JONES:

4 They have not yet been
5 approved. We're about to vote on
6 them.

7 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

8 Oh, okay.

9 MR. JONES:

10 As far as any action from the
11 Board, no action is required from
12 the Board other than to allow him

13 to put this on the record; is
14 that accurate? Okay. The Board is
15 making no representation as to
16 the validity of his
17 representation; simply the fact
18 that he is making that
19 representation; is that fair?

20 All right. Good. Thank you,
21 Mr. Belton. We appreciate you
22 being here today.

23 MR. BELTON:

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 MR. JONES:

0018

1 Any other comments from the
2 floor on these renewals? Any
3 comments from the Board?

4 All right. We have a motion
5 and second. All in fair say aye.

6 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

7 Aye.

8 MR. JONES:

9 Any oppose? Good. Thank you.
10 All right.

11 MS. LAMBERT:

12 We have one other action, and
13 that is Request for Partial
14 Transfer of Ownership to Contract
15 2004-0151, and that is Contract
16 2004-0151-20. This is for Perdido
17 Street Development, LLC, going
18 from that name to the new name of
19 James Thornton and Charlena
20 Thornton and the other names as
21 shown -- these are units. This is
22 an apartment complex all in
23 Orleans Parish. And, for the
24 record, I will name the new names
25 per unit. Ivan M. Sherman, Unit

0019

1 2D. Travis J. St. Pierre, Unit

2 2E. Bernard and Barbara Landry,

3 Unit 3B. Michael Kurtz, Unit 3D.

4 Gary J. Mack, Sr., PH2. Daniel
5 Paul Abbott, Unit PH4.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Do we have a motion to
8 approve? We have a motion from
9 Andre Fruge. Second from Mr.
10 Elmore. Any comments from the
11 floor? Any comments from the
12 Board? Let's vote. All in favor
13 say aye.

14 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

15 Aye.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Any oppose? Good. Thank you.
18 Now, let's see. Ms. Hanible
19 wants to talk to us about the
20 Enterprise Zone Program.

21 MS. HANIBLE:

22 Thank you, Chairman. We have
23 40 applications per decision by
24 the Board.

25 Advance Stores Company, Inc.

0020

1 doing business as Advance Auto
2 Parts, Store #8836 located in
3 Lafayette Parish. American
4 Stat-Care Centers PC Inc. located
5 in Ouachita Parish. Axis
6 Compressor Services, LLC located
7 in Iberia Parish. Blade Studios,
8 LLC located in Caddo Parish. Blue
9 Bell Creameries, L.P. located in
10 Bossier Parish. CBS Hotel Group,
11 LLC located in St. Bernard
12 Parish. Chabill's Tire Service,
13 LLC, located in Lafayette Parish.
14 Christian Brothers School located
15 in Orleans Parish. Colonial
16 Properties Services, LP located
17 in St. Tammany Parish.
18 Consolidated Container Company
19 located in West Baton Rouge
20 Parish. Diamond B Construction

21 Company, LLC, doing business as
22 Diamond B Construction, located
23 in Iberia Parish. Dolphin
24 Services, LLC, located in
25 Terrebonne Parish. Enterprise

0021

1 Products Company, doing business
2 as Enterprise Products Company
3 located in Rapides Parish.
4 Enterprise Products Company,
5 doing business as Enterprise
6 Products Company located in
7 DeSoto Parish. ETC-Tiger
8 Pipeline, LLC located in Caddo
9 Parish. ETC-Tiger Pipeline, LLC
10 located in Bienville Parish.
11 ETC-Tiger Pipeline, LLC located
12 in Jackson Parish. Family Dollar
13 Stores of Louisiana Incorporated,
14 located in St. Bernard Parish.
15 Family Dollar Stores of Louisiana
16 Incorporated located in Richland
17 Parish. Family Dollar Stores of
18 Louisiana Incorporated located in
19 St. Helena Parish. Family Dollar
20 Stores of Louisiana Incorporated
21 located in Tangipahoa Parish.
22 Family Dollar Stores of Louisiana
23 Incorporated located in St. Mary
24 Parish. Family Dollar Stores of
25 Louisiana Incorporated in

0022

1 Bienville Parish. Family Dollar
2 Stores of Louisiana Incorporated
3 in Jefferson Parish. Family
4 Dollar Stores of Louisiana
5 Incorporated in Orleans Parish.
6 And Family Dollar Stores of
7 Louisiana located in Claiborne
8 Parish. Gulf Island, LLC located
9 in Terrebonne Parish. Gulf Inland
10 Marine Fabricators Island --
11 excuse me -- Marine Fabricators,

12 LLC doing business as Gulf Island
13 Marine Fabricators, LLC in
14 Terrebonne Parish. K&W Patten's
15 Metal Express, LLC, in Livingston
16 Parish. K&B Machine Works, LLC
17 located in Terrebonne Parish.
18 Laitram Machinery Incorporated
19 located in Jefferson Parish.
20 Lamendola Dentistry located in
21 Ascension Parish. LaSalle
22 Management Company, LLC in
23 Lincoln Parish. MW Hotels, LLC
24 doing business as Towneplace
25 Suites Monroe in Ouachita Parish.

0023

1 Pay-Less Supermarket Incorporated
2 doing business as LeBlanc's
3 Pay-Less Food Store #008 in East
4 Baton Rouge Parish. Performance
5 Labor Services, LLC, located in
6 Terrebonne Parish. PHC Morgan
7 City, LP, doing business as Teche
8 Regional Medical Center located
9 in St. Mary Parish. Quick Way
10 Food Stores Incorporated doing
11 business as Quick Way Store #1 in
12 Tangipahoa Parish. SC SR
13 Subtenant, LLC, doing business as
14 SC SR Subtenant LLC located in
15 Orleans Parish. And Sunrise
16 Hospitality V, LLC, located in
17 Bossier Parish.

18 MR. JONES:

19 All right. Thank you, ma'am.

20 Do we have a motion? From Mr.

21 Soprano, and we have a second
22 from Ms. Smith.

23 MR. BOSSIER:

24 Jerry, I abstain from voting.

25 MR. JONES:

0024

1 We have an abstention from
2 Mr. Bossier. Any discussion from

3 the floor? Any discussion from
4 the Board? All in favor say aye.

5 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

6 Aye.

7 MR. JONES:

8 All oppose? And Mr. Bossier
9 is not voting and is not
10 participating in the discussion.

11 All right. Let's go to the
12 Industrial Tax Exemption. Ms.
13 Weber.

14 MS. WEBER:

15 Yes. You want them in toto?

16 MR. JONES:

17 Well, if you don't mind. As I
18 understand it, you may have
19 some --

20 MS. WEBER:

21 I just have two changes.

22 MR. JONES:

23 -- changes you need to make.

24 MS. WEBER:

25 Yes.

0025

1 MR. JONES:

2 Let's point those out and
3 then we will see if we can adopt
4 them in-globo.

5 MS. WEBER:

6 Okay. Americas Styrenics,
7 2011010 -- 0010.

8 MR. JONES:

9 What page are you on? I'm
10 sorry?

11 MS. WEBER:

12 On the first page. Americas
13 Styrenics. It's -- it shows \$2.2
14 million. It's actually
15 \$1,107,377.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Okay.

18 MS. WEBER:

19 And then on the second page,

20 Diversified Foods & Seasonings,
21 20120300 in St. Tammany. It shows
22 \$141,351. It's actually
23 \$1,141,350.

24 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
25 Who is this, now?

0026

1 MS. WEBER:
2 Diversified Foods. Oh, the
3 first one was Americas Styrenics.
4 And the bottom line is still \$1.6
5 billion.

6 MR. JONES:
7 Okay. So just some typos in
8 the entries?

9 MS. WEBER:
10 Operator error.

11 MR. JONES:
12 That's all right. But the
13 total number is still the same?

14 MS. WEBER:
15 Yes.

16 MR. JONES:
17 I'm with you. So we have a
18 motion from Ms. Potts-Roque that
19 we would suspend the reading of
20 all of the applications, but I'm
21 going to ask if we can amend your
22 motion to also adopt the edits
23 that Ms. Weber is suggesting,
24 make that all part of your
25 motion, is that okay?

0027

1 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
2 Right. I would like to make a
3 motion that we suspend the
4 reading of the applications and
5 accept the changes that were
6 requested at this time.

7 MS. WEBER:
8 Thank you.

9 MR. JONES:
10 Right. We have that motion.

11 We have a second from Mr. King.
12 And the Chair will be abstaining
13 from any vote concerning Dr.
14 Reddys Lab, which is No.
15 20120168. Dr. Reddys Laboratories
16 Louisiana, LLC. I will be
17 abstaining from any discussion
18 but will be participating solely
19 for the purpose of facilitating
20 the meeting.

21 Now, any discussion from the
22 floor on any of the applications
23 under the Industrial Tax
24 Exemption. Excuse, scratch that.
25 No. Yes, indeed. I'm sorry. Any

0028

1 discussion from the floor? None.
2 Any discussion from the Board?
3 All right. Are we ready to vote?
4 All in favor say aye.

5 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

6 Aye.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Any oppose? All right.

9 MS. WEBER:

10 Okay. We have one transfer
11 from Evonik Carbon Black, LLC.
12 It's actually all active
13 contracts to Orion Engineered
14 Carbons, LLC in St. Mary.

15 MR. JONES:

16 We have a motion to approve?

17 Ms. Smith. Second? Ms. Atkins.

18 All right. Any discussion from
19 the floor? From the Board? All in
20 favor say aye.

21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

22 Aye.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Any oppose? Unanimous. Next.

25 MS. WEBER:

0029

1 I have two cancellations.

2 Flowers Baking Company of Baton
3 Rouge, Contract No. 20029447.
4 They have already paid the
5 property taxes on these assets,
6 and that's in East Baton Rouge
7 Parish.

8 Dolese Brothers, Contract No.
9 20100322. The assets were
10 relocated outside of the state so
11 there is no penalty in this one
12 either. St. Helena Parish.

13 MR. JONES:

14 Do we have a motion to
15 approve. Mr. Fruge. Second from
16 Mr. Elmore. Any discussion from
17 the floor? From the Board? All in
18 favor say aye.

19 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

20 Aye.

21 MR. JONES:

22 Any oppose? No opposition.
23 Ms. Weber.

24 MS. WEBER:

25 Okay. I have 18 renewal

0030

1 contracts. Two from Afco
2 Industries in Rapides. Two from
3 Conrad Shipyard in St. Mary.
4 Dixie Weld Fab in Caddo. Two
5 Folgers Coffee in Orleans. Galata
6 Chemicals in St. Charles. Ideal
7 Steel in St. Martin. Two
8 Louisiana Hardwood Products in
9 St. Landry. Two Motors
10 Liquidation Company in Caddo. Two
11 Novolyte Technologies in East
12 Baton Rouge. Two Sonoco Products
13 in East Baton Rouge. And one
14 Wilco Manufacturing in Lafayette.

15 MR. JONES:

16 Motion from Mr. Soprano to
17 approve. Second from Ms. Smith.
18 Any discussion from the floor?

19 Any discussion from the Board?

20 All in favor say aye.

21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

22 Aye.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Any opposition? There is no
25 opposition. They are approved.

0031

1 Good to have Mr. Grissom here
2 from the Department. Any comments
3 today?

4 MR. GRISSOM:

5 Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, and I
6 want to commend you on a well run
7 meeting. I have one handout for
8 our Board members and I will keep
9 my comments brief, but if you
10 don't mind, Mr. Chair, if you
11 could just pass this down. Pass
12 these down and I will hold on
13 comments until each of you has
14 the handout in front of you. Have
15 the handouts made their way down
16 yet? I should have had those put
17 together prior to the meeting. I
18 apologize.

19 This relatively recent
20 ranking for Louisiana is one that
21 we see as extremely important and
22 powerful and one that the Board
23 of Commerce and Industry has a
24 direct and very meaningful role
25 in, so I wanted to highlight this

0032

1 to our Board members and comment
2 a bit about the methodology, the
3 research that was conducted and
4 how Louisiana was evaluated.

5 This is a new ranking that is
6 looking at the overall business
7 tax competitiveness across the
8 state; at both the state and
9 local level. The ranking was

10 conducted by the Tax Foundation
11 in collaboration with KPMG, and,
12 again, was a 50 state analysis
13 looking at the tax burdens across
14 the U.S.

15 In this assessment, Louisiana
16 was identified as No. 2 in the
17 U.S.; No. 2 meaning the lowest
18 overall state and local tax
19 burden for businesses. That's for
20 new firms, and No. 10 in the U.S.
21 for mature firms, so rankings
22 that indicate that the state is
23 competitive and has made positive
24 strides over the last several
25 years. The release indicates a

0033

1 number of reforms that have been
2 made over the last several years
3 that have contributed to these
4 rankings. And if you flip to the
5 last page, we created a summary
6 table, and this is a table that
7 we put in front of individuals
8 that might be considering
9 projects across multiple states,
10 we included a number of the
11 southern states, which Louisiana
12 is often in competition with, and
13 it indicates when looking at new
14 project opportunities in both
15 capital intensive and labor
16 intensive manufacturing
17 categories are indeed and
18 corporate headquarters, Louisiana
19 is positioned as No. 1 or No. 2
20 in all of those categories, so
21 when we are out working with
22 individuals as they are making
23 their business decisions,
24 particularly those that are
25 looking across numerous states,

0034

1 we want to make sure that those
2 individuals understand how
3 Louisiana compares to other
4 states, understand why that's the
5 case, and bring that
6 consideration into their decision
7 making.

8 One of the -- well, two of
9 the major reasons that Louisiana
10 fared so well, particularly in
11 the manufacturing space, is our
12 Quality Jobs Program and our
13 Industrial Tax Exemption Program,
14 which are very well established
15 and recognized across the nation,
16 and that, along with our basic
17 overall Business Tax Foundation
18 leads to those No. 1 rankings, so
19 I just wanted to highlight this
20 new information. This is a new
21 evaluation that was done -- I
22 think it took the KPMG and Tax
23 Foundation anywhere from six to
24 nine months to pull it together.
25 It was a major undertaking. We

0035

1 are very excited to see how
2 Louisiana was evaluated and where
3 we came out. We think it's very
4 positive news, and, again, it's a
5 direct reflection of the work of
6 -- of this Board and your
7 participation on this Board, so I
8 wanted to commend all of you for
9 being a strong contributor as
10 part of these rankings.

11 So, Mr. Chairman, that -- I
12 really wanted to focus my remarks
13 on this very important ranking
14 and how we fared, and be happy to
15 answer any additional questions
16 if they are out there.

17 MR. JONES:

18 That's great news. Thank you,
19 Mr. Grissom. I always enjoy when
20 I get the -- I think it's
21 Quarterly Magazine that y'all put
22 out, and I thought the last
23 edition was particularly telling
24 with all of the number -- the
25 high rankings we have where we

0036

1 are starting to get to the top of
2 list you want to be the top of
3 and bottom of the list we want to
4 be at the bottom of, so we thank
5 you for your work. And I know we
6 said it before, but all of the
7 staff members who do the work day
8 in and day out making all of this
9 happen. We appreciate what you
10 guys do for us. We thank you for
11 making our jobs much easier when
12 we come to these meetings from
13 all points of the state.

14 Anything else on the order
15 today? Board members? Anyone from
16 the floor; any comments,
17 suggestions, criticisms, you can
18 check those at the door. No. I'm
19 kidding.

20 MR. LANGLEY:

21 Great job in chairing your
22 first meeting.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Thank you. Not bad for a
25 rookie, huh? Thank you, sir. I

0037

1 appreciate it. Anything before we
2 go? I have a motion to adjourn by
3 Mr. Gonsulin. All in favor say
4 aye.

5 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

6 Aye.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Thank you. We'll see y'all in

9 June.

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11 (Whereupon the meeting has concluded at 1:59
12 p.m.)
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2 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3

4 I, RACHEL Y. TORRES, a Certified
5 Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the within
6 witness, after having been first duly sworn to
7 testify to the truth, did testify as hereinabove
8 set forth.

9 That the testimony was reported by
10 me in shorthand and transcribed under my personal
11 direction and supervision, and is a true and
12 correct transcript, to the best of my ability and
13 understanding; that I am not of counsel, not
14 related to counsel or the parties hereto, and in
15 no way interested in the outcome of this event.
16
17
18

19 RACHEL Y. TORRES, CCR, RPR
20 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
21
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