



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Southwest Louisiana Mayors forge partnership with state

BATON ROUGE – Speaker of the House Chuck Kleckley, R-Lake Charles, is anticipating enormous new investments in his region and is supporting careful planning. He recently met with mayors from all six municipalities in Calcasieu Parish along with the Police Jury. The group is seeking a working partnership with the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Transportation and Development.

“We will see around \$30 billion in industrial development in the next four years in Southwest Louisiana, that will create up to 12,000 construction jobs and almost 2,000 permanent jobs, and we need to have the state and local resources in place to support this activity,” said Randy Roach, Mayor of Lake Charles. “We came to Baton Rouge, not only to thank the state for its efforts to bring that kind of investment to our area, but to remind them that the real work is just beginning.”

Roach said the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, along with local communities and other local agencies, have formed a working group called the Go Group, to make sure issues concerning workforce development, public safety, utilities, public services, transportation, education, healthcare and other needs are identified early and steps are taken to address those issues.

"We are anxious to get to work and support the planned industrial expansion," Roach said, "But we will need help from the state to make sure we meet the needs of industry and realize all the benefits this work will bring to the state."

During the meeting in Baton Rouge this week, the Calcasieu representatives asked LED Secretary Stephen Moret and DOTD Secretary Sheri LeBas to appoint agency representatives to serve as liaisons to the Go Group.

With those individuals actively involved as partners, Roach said the team can quickly resolve problems, requests and ongoing issues during the years of construction and growth, “We won’t have to re-invent the wheel with each request.”

Speaker Kleckley, who hosted the group of mayors, and the entire southwest delegation are in complete agreement and look forward to fostering the state's partnership with the Go Group to make sure all the promised benefits are actually realized by careful planning.

In attendance were mayors Lawrence Henagan, DeQuincy, Carol Ponthieux, Iowa, Randy Roach, Lake Charles, Chris Duncan, Sulphur, Kenneth Stinson, Vinton, Dan Cupit, Westlake. Also meeting were Mark Eckard, Lake Charles City Council President, Shannon Spell, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury President, George Swift, Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, and Bryan Beam, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Administrator.

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