

Response to Today's action by Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

Chuck Kleckley, Speaker of the House John Alario, President of the Senate

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"This is an important balancing act..."

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget will continue its review of financial data concerning large economic incentive proposals for two corporations planning to build in Louisiana.

The committee will meet as early as next week to consider final action on the incentive packages. Legislators delayed final action today on Sasol North America, Inc. and Lockheed Martin Corporation until additional information is provided to members.

"We need to do this right," said Speaker of the House Chuck Kleckley. "This is an important balancing act between a good business decision for investors and the state and a good decision about how to spend taxpayer money."

Kleckley said the committee will move quickly to review the state's commitment of economic incentives offered to the corporations and the projections concerning revenues the state will receive from these major construction and operations plans.

"These are very important projects for the entire state. We need to make sure that we are moving forward in a manner that is in the best interest of the state and our citizens," said Senate President John Alario.