



CHAMBER  
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



Greater Lafayette  
Chamber of Commerce  
In Business for Business

March 25, 2011

Senate & Governmental Affairs Committee  
House & Governmental Affairs Committee

To Members of the Senate and House Governmental Affairs Committees:

We thank both the Senate & Governmental Affairs Committee and the House & Governmental Affairs Committee for visiting our regions to hear directly from our citizens our thoughts and hopes for the Redistricting process. During our meetings, a common voice was that our regions must continue to remain together.

We reaffirm our position that it is advantageous to both of our regions and to the economy of South Louisiana to keep Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana & Lafayette/Acadiana united. We respectfully request that Jeff Davis and Acadia Parishes remain in our district.

- Both regions are closely tied along the I-10 corridor.
- Both regions share common industries: agriculture, tourism, oil & gas, energy production, and shipping.
- Both regions share common cultures.
- Both regions share common concerns: hurricane threats, coastal erosion, and environmental compliance issues.
- Both regions will foster economic development through shared international trade and entrepreneurial programs. In January 2011, representatives from both regions met in Jennings to sign an International Trade Accord solidifying our efforts towards an economic development super region.
- Both regions share common coastal needs must be addressed in part through keeping our united ports system intact linking Calcasieu & Cameron (through the use of the Ship Channel) and the Port of Iberia and Mermentau.

The current congressional district is compact with the parishes in Acadiana including Vermillion, Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette, Jeff Davis, Acadia, Evangeline & St Landry. These are all communities of interest economically, culturally and agriculturally.

If the district would have to be shifted from its current form separating the parishes of Acadiana, we respectfully request that you not split up the parishes along the I-10 corridor.

Dividing these parishes between Lafayette and Lake Charles with a North Louisiana seat would not be contiguous or acceptable to the needs in those communities.

Respectfully,

George Swift  
President/CEO

Rob Guidry  
President/CEO

The Chamber/Southwest Louisiana

Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce