



## LOUISIANA SENATE

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**SENATE PRESIDENT ALARIO, HOUSE PRO-TEM LEGER, AND SENATOR  
MARTINY HONORED WITH CHAMPION OF SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS  
FROM NATIONAL COALITION FOR CAPITAL**

***RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS PROMOTING ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

Louisiana Senate President John A. Alario, Jr., House Speaker Pro-Tempore Walt Leger III and District 10 State Senator Danny Martiny were honored this week with Champion of Small Business Awards from the National Coalition for Capital (NCFC), a non-profit nationwide organization of leaders supporting economic development and job creation through long-term access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Champion of Small Business Awards recognize individuals for demonstrating leadership in supporting policies and initiatives designed to promote access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, especially those in economically distressed communities.

"This award recognizes the Louisiana legislators' important work to preserve and create jobs through access to capital policy that helps Louisiana's small businesses grow and develop," said Michael Votta, President of the National Coalition for Capital. "These legislative leaders have demonstrated they are champions of small business, and their efforts will have an enduring positive impact on Louisiana."

As President of the Louisiana Senate, former Speaker of the Louisiana House and a legislator for over 40 years, Sen. Alario has a strong record of supporting economic growth, particularly in those areas of Louisiana most in need of jobs. Under his leadership in a very challenging legislative session earlier this year, the state reauthorized and improved its groundbreaking New Markets tax credits to encourage private investment in small businesses.

**"We have made a concerted effort in Louisiana in recent years to encourage economic development, especially as it relates to small business development and retention and those efforts have been very successful," Sen. Alario said. "I am honored to be among those recognized for supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs who strive to preserve and grow jobs in their communities."**

**Rep. Walt Leger was elected in 2007 as the Representative for District 91 in New Orleans. During his time in office, he has served on a number of committees and now serves as the House Speaker Pro Tempore. He aggressively pursues the development of homegrown industry and entrepreneurship. As the author of Act 265 of the 2013 Regular Session, he led the 2013 expansion of Louisiana's precedent-setting New Markets tax credit program. Building on the state's New Markets' impressive track record of job creation and nation-leading per capita investment, Rep. Leger advocated tirelessly for the 2013 expansion.**

**"Growing the economy and creating jobs has been a focus of mine for many years," Rep. Leger said. "Leading the effort to support entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing access to low cost capital through the New Market Jobs Tax Credits Act is a great source of pride. This program will prove to be a major economic driver in Louisiana for many years to come."**

**Veteran legislator Sen. Danny Martiny led the floor debate on the New Markets tax credits program in the Louisiana Senate in the 2013 legislative session, proving that good ideas for economic growth can succeed in the face of unrelated political crosswinds. Sen. Martiny's advocacy was pivotal in the continued growth of the Louisiana New Markets' success story.**

**"Thriving and growing small businesses are key to Louisiana's continued economic growth and to building stronger communities across the state," Sen. Martiny said. "I am honored to have played a role in helping to improve Louisiana's small business climate with the enhancement of the New Markets tax credit program."**

**Sen. Alario, Rep. Leger and Sen. Martiny, along with 22 fellow legislators and officials from across the nation, were recognized for their leadership at the annual National Coalition for Capital Awards Ceremony on August 12th in Atlanta, Georgia. The ceremony is held in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Annual Summit.**

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