

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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SEN. APPEL SEEKS TO MAXIMIZE STATE'S POTENTIAL AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING POWERHOUSE

SENATE RESOLUTION 119 CREATES A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP GLOBAL TRADE STRATEGY

District 9 Senator Conrad Appel (R-Metairie) believes that the real future of the New Orleans region is tied to its roots, a trade economy. He sees the upcoming 300th anniversary of the founding of New Orleans as a reminder of the trading and shipping industry that created The Crescent City. However, this industry's popularity has waned, leaving only 6 of Louisiana's 38 port districts engaged in global trade. Sen. Appel believes that there is incredible potential in these ports. To tap into this potential, he authored Senate Resolution 119 which organizes a task force that would be responsible for developing a plan to resurrect the global trade industry in Louisiana.

"There are numerous studies that have analyzed Louisiana's shipping industry and proposed strategies for maximizing its potential," said Sen. Appel. "The purpose of this resolution is to bring Louisiana's brightest minds together to look at all of this data in order to craft a master plan that refocuses the state's efforts toward global trade. By developing specific strategies, we will be able to bring the industry back to life, creating real wealth and real job opportunities for the people of Louisiana."

Senate Resolution 119 creates a Senate Task Force to develop a unified initiative for economic development based upon global trade strategies. The task force is to be comprised of the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, representatives from the Department of Economic Development, Department of Transportation and Development, Port Association of Louisiana, Port of South Louisiana, Port of New Orleans, Port of Lake Charles, and many others. The task force will begin its work by September 1, 2010 and will submit a written report to the Senate by March 1, 2011 that will include specific drafts of legislation required to implement the identified strategies.

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