

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN SITE SELECTION EXPERT
TO ADDRESS TASK FORCE
ON GLOBAL TRADE-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

AIM TO IDENTIFY OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT

Internationally known site selection expert Dennis Cuneo will offer his perspective and ideas on economic development in Louisiana at the next meeting of the Senate Task Force on Global Trade-Based Economic Development Strategies. Cuneo is the former Senior Vice President of Toyota Motor North America and continues to serve as an advisor to Toyota. Site Selection Magazine has described him as "one of the most sought-after site seekers in the world." The New York Times Deal Book noted that "to officials of state economic development agencies across the country, he's the equivalent of Elvis."

"We are extremely honored and privileged to have Mr. Cuneo work with our task force," District 9 State Senator Conrad Appel (R-Metairie), who chairs the task force, said. "He brings a great deal of knowledge and understanding of the needs of major manufacturing ventures to the table. Our hope is that he can help us identify obstacles that we face here in Louisiana particularly as it relates to the development of international manufacturing businesses and the location of corporate headquarters in our state. If we know the obstacles we face, we can then move expeditiously to address them."

Mr. Cuneo is scheduled to address the task force at its next meeting Tuesday, December 7th in Senate Room E at 1:30 p.m. in the Governor's Press Room, fourth floor of the State Capitol. The Senate Task Force on Global Trade-Based Economic Development Strategies is charged with developing a coordinated, strategic plan to resurrect the global trade industry in Louisiana. Its membership is comprised of a cross section of business and industry representatives as well as economic development experts and state policy officials.

The task force began its work September 1, 2010 and will submit a written report to the Senate by March 1, 2011. The report will include proposed legislation and administrative action required to implement the identified global trade-based economic development strategies.

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