

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR CONNICK

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the staff of the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission for the organization's outstanding accomplishments and the staff's dedication to public service and exemplary work in strengthening the economy and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent yet complementary arm of the Jefferson Parish government, devoted to building a resilient, equitable, diverse, and competitive economy through job retention and creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, and strategic investment; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment in 1987, JEDCO has been a steadfast partner in progress for Jefferson Parish, assisting thousands of businesses through incubator and loan programs, tax incentives, workforce development initiatives, and business information services; and

WHEREAS, JEDCO achieved Accreditation as an Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and has been recognized internationally as a premier economic development organization for the fifth time in seventeen years, making it the longest continuously serving AEDO in Louisiana and the second longest in the Gulf South; and

WHEREAS, the AEDO designation is a prestigious recognition granted only after a rigorous peer-review process, indicating that JEDCO meets the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, and success in economic development; and

WHEREAS, JEDCO's values of integrity, dynamic approach, collaboration, and service orientation guide its work in empowering businesses and enriching the Jefferson Parish community equitably and inclusively; and

WHEREAS, JEDCO's recent achievements include but are not limited to:

- (1) Facilitating the redevelopment of the historic Avondale Shipyard;
- (2) Supporting Ochsner Health System's major expansion along Jefferson Highway;
- (3) Retaining and assisting the expansion of US Foods' state-of-the-art distribution

center;

(4) Attracting over \$1 billion in foreign direct investment from companies such as CF Industries, UBE, and Bunge;

(5) Establishing Jefferson Parish as a leader in wind energy innovation through its work with Gulf Wind Technology;

(6) Completing a strategic plan for the Churchill Technology & Business Park to support future mixed-use development;

(7) Securing funding for the Greater New Orleans Food & Beverage Incubator;

(8) Advancing sustainability and resilience in the local seafood industry through innovative branding of Grand Isle oysters;

(9) Supporting the expansion of local businesses, including RNGD's 14-acre campus, ORACLE Lighting's Fat City facility, and Perrone & Sons' new production site;

(10) Launching the impactful "MORE HERE" attraction campaign to showcase the parish's strengths;

(11) Promoting neighborhood revitalization through projects like the construction of a model home in Terrytown; and

(12) Securing \$600,000 in federal grant funding for the redevelopment of local brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, the continued efforts and accomplishments of the dedicated JEDCO staff serve as a model of excellence in public service and economic leadership, benefitting the businesses and residents of Jefferson Parish and the state of Louisiana as a whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend the staff of the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission for their vision, dedication, and continued commitment to fostering economic growth and opportunity in Jefferson Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to JEDCO President and Chief Executive Officer Jerry Bologna.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE