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12 April 2007

Mr. Roger Wilson
Broadway South
201 St. Charles Avenue
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New Orleans, LA 70170

Dear Roger:


On March 21st the Downtown Development District of New Orleans Board of Commissioners officially endorsed the Performing Arts Tax Credit (Senate Bill 17 in the 2007 Regular Session). The Board took this action after extensive analysis of the bill and its potential benefits to downtown New Orleans. The DDD believes that a long-term commitment to growing Louisiana's commercial performing arts can provide important economic and social benefits to the entire state, and certainly to downtown New Orleans.

In particular, the DDD believes that S.B. 17's tax credit for building performing arts *infrastructure*, including restoration of historic theatres, will be especially beneficial to towns across the state that are graced by grand theatres and other venues looking for a new economic future.

In New Orleans, the redevelopment of Canal Street's historic theatres – including the Saenger, State Palace, Orpheum and Joy – has presented a daunting challenge; the infrastructure tax credit provision in S.B. 17 offers an extremely helpful tool that will greatly increase the financial feasibility of these projects.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. The DDD stands ready to assist as you work to educate policy makers about the value of this landmark legislation.

Sincerely,



Kurt M. Weigle
Executive Director

cc: Mayor C. Ray Nagin
Senator Ed Murray
Senator Diana Bajoie
Representative Karen Carter
Judy Barrasso, Chair, DDD Board of Commissioners

