

April 17, 2020

Dear Resilient Louisiana Commission Members:

First, we would first like to thank you for agreeing to participate in this incredibly important endeavor. We know your time is valuable — you have your own organizations to manage and run. But hopefully if we function smartly and nimbly, and the medical aspects of the virus are successful, we can declare this body “out of business” at some point in the not-too-distant future.

As the governor stated April 16, the **purpose** of Resilient Louisiana is to bring together the best public sector and private second expertise to prepare and guide the state through the ongoing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. To examine Louisiana’s economy and make recommendations for more resilient business-related activities and commerce in the coming months.

The **intended outcome** is a comprehensive game plan for creating a more resilient Louisiana after **quickly** taking a deep dive into all aspects of the state’s economy, how industry sectors have been impacted by COVID-19 and how business-related activities can be safely re-energized for short- and longer-term success in this uncertain future that we face at this moment.

The **process** will be designed to be transparent, visible and inclusive of multiple viewpoints, business and industry groups and other stakeholder groups.

That’s our **vision**, as well as the governor’s vision, but we will certainly be open to your perspectives and feedback in the coming weeks.

The **structure** of Resilient Louisiana is an 18-member governing commission, supported by 15 task forces in identified critical industry sectors. Those task forces will perform the quick deep dive to evaluate the issues and suggest best practices to help us manage risk better and deliver for our citizens and businesses in the future.

Construction	Hospitality and Tourism
Economic and Community Development	Information Technology and Communication
Education and Workforce	Manufacturing
Energy	Retail and Small Business
Financial Services, Insurance and Real Estate	Restaurants and Leisure Activity
Food and Agriculture	Rural Development
Gaming	Transportation and Infrastructure
Health care and Human Services	

Flexibility, adaptation, persistence and innovation will be key characteristics for Resilient Louisiana to exhibit for as long as we are organized. I am confident that collectively we can provide the game plan Louisiana needs. Through an “all in this together” attitude, we can illuminate that Louisiana can display the tenacity, resiliency and know-how needed to meet this generational moment.

Suggested next steps:

1. Secretary Pierson and Ms. Sterling establish a meeting date for organizational meeting (Suggested April 22, 2020)
2. Task Force leadership identifies additional task force members, attempting to continue to bring together the best public sector and private sector expertise. As stated above, we are designed to be transparent, visible and inclusive of multiple viewpoints, business and industry groups and other stakeholder groups.
3. The Task Forces conduct virtual meetings to prepare and guide task force efforts to populate a template of suggestions, action steps. This requires identifying areas of focus, and within those areas identifying proposals and proposal details for consideration by the Resilient Louisiana governing commission. Task Forces will hear and review ideas, deliberate within the task force and bring reports back to the governing commission as necessary. Task Forces will seek what makes sense for Louisiana's economy in the short- and longer-term to forge a Louisiana as strong as or stronger than before. This could include gathering best practices that are being established by other state governments and are being compiled by numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The Co-Chairs should ensure task force members are articulating the viewpoints of their particular stakeholder groups, how they've been impacted, what's needed to rebound.
4. Resilient Louisiana gathers the final input from the 15 Task Forces and provides recommendations supporting Louisiana's economic progress amid the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations provide for a more resilient economy and support business-related activities and commerce growth in the coming months. This includes leveraging resources that are being provided (and/or will be provided) to various Louisiana governmental entities by the federal government via legislative and/or administrative means.
5. Already established at www.opportunitylouisiana.com/resilientlouisiana is an online presence to serve as a hub for notification of meetings, meeting materials and reports. An email address has also been established: resilientlouisiana@la.gov.

Again, thank you very much for your service to Louisiana at this critical time. We look forward to working with you all.

Don Pierson, Secretary
Louisiana Economic Development

Terrie Sterling
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System (Ret)