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BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MEETING
TAKEN IN THE LASALLE BUILDING, 617 NORTH 3RD
STREET, LABELLE ROOM, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON
JUNE 28, 2021 COMMENCING AT 10:31 A.M.

REPORTED BY:
RACHEL TORRES-REGIS, CCR, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

- 1 Board Members:
- 2 David Toups
- 3 Guy McInnis
- 4 Rickey Fabra
- 5 Manual Fajardo
- 6 Stuart Moss
- 7 Rep. Vincent St. Blanc proxy for Rep. Paula Davis
- 8 Senator Rick Ward proxy for Sen. Ronnie Johns
- 9 Kenneth Havard
- 10 Jerald Jones, Chairman
- 11 Sen. Bret Allain
- 12 Rep. Scott McKnight proxy for Rep. Stuart Bishop
- 13 Jan Moller
- 14 Anne Villa-designee for Secretary Don Pierson
- 15 George Nassar
- 16 Darrel Saizan
- 17 Ronnie Slone
- 18 Dr. Shawn Wilson
- 19 Dr. Woodrow Wilson
- 20 Dr. Beverly Thompson
- 21 Sandra McQuain
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25



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- 1 **Staff Members:**
- 2 **Brenda Guess**
- 3 **Frank Favaloro**
- 4 **Mandi Mitchell**
- 5 **Hud Usie**
- 6 **Kristin Cheng**
- 7 **Deborah Simmons**
- 8 **Joyce Metoyer**
- 9 **Michaela Adegbe**
- 10 **Becky Lambert**
- 11 **Tam Bourgeois**
- 12 **Robin Porter**
- 13 **Caroline Causey**
- 14 **Yancey LeGrande**
- 15 **Rick Ward**
- 16 **Cory Raby**
- 17 **Shawn Welcome**

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1 MR. JONES:

2 Good morning, everyone. It's
3 good to see everyone at the June
4 meeting of the Board of Commerce
5 and Industry. I hope your summer
6 is going well.

7 As we get started, we call
8 the meeting to order. Ms.
9 Simmons, if you can call the roll
10 and see if we have a quorum.

11 MS. SIMMONS:

12 Good morning, everyone.
13 Mayor David Toups.

14 MR. TOUPS:

15 Here.

16 MS. SIMMONS:

17 Yvette Cola. Guy McInnis.

18 MR. MCINNIS:

19 Here.

20 MS. SIMMONS:

21 Rickey Fabra.

22 MR. FABRA:

23 Here.

24 MS. SIMMONS:

25 Manual Fajardo.



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1 MR. FAJARDO:

2 Here.

3 MS. SIMMONS:

4 Stuart Moss.

5 MR. MOSS:

6 Here.

7 MS. SIMMONS:

8 Representative Vincent St.

9 Blanc for Paula Davis.

10 MR. BLANC:

11 Here.

12 MS. SIMMONS:

13 Senator Rick Ward proxy for

14 Sen. Ronnie Johns. Kenneth

15 Havard.

16 MR. HAVARD:

17 Here.

18 MS. SIMMONS:

19 Jerald Jones.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Here.

22 MS. SIMMONS:

23 Senator Brett Allain.

24 MR. ALLAIN:

25 Here.



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1 MS. SIMMONS:
2 Senator Scott McKnight proxy
3 for Rep. Stuart Bishop.

4 MR. MCKNIGHT:
5 Here.

6 MS. SIMMONS:
7 Jan Moller.

8 MR. MOLLER:
9 Here.

10 MS. SIMMONS:
11 Ann Villa.

12 MS. VILLA:
13 Here.

14 MS. SIMMONS:
15 George Nassar.

16 MR. NASSAR:
17 Here.

18 MS. SIMMONS:
19 Darrell Saizan. Rickey
20 Slone. I'm sorry. Ronnie Slone.

21 MR. SLONE:
22 Present.

23 MS. SIMMONS:
24 Dr. Shawn Wilson. Dr.
25 Woodrow Wilson.



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1 DR. WILSON:

2 Here.

3 MS. SIMMONS:

4 Travis Holly. Dr. Beverly
5 Thompson.

6 DR. THOMPSON:

7 Here.

8 MS. SIMMONS:

9 Sandra McQuain.

10 MS. MCQUAIN:

11 Here.

12 MS. SIMMONS:

13 We have a quorum.

14 MR. JONES:

15 Thank you. It's good to see
16 everyone. We do have a quorum.
17 Let's proceed.

18 One thing just to -- for the
19 board members, if you can speak
20 clearly and directly into your
21 microphone. We are trying to
22 stream the meeting and we want to
23 be sure that we pick up on
24 everything that we have to say.
25 Also, for those who come and



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1 speak in front of the
2 microphones, please pull the mic
3 up to your mouth. Don't be
4 afraid. It won't bite. But we
5 need to be able to get the
6 meeting clearly heard by those
7 who wish to watch by that
8 miraculous thing we call the
9 internet.

10 All right. First on the
11 agenda is the approval of the
12 minutes from our April 28, 2021
13 meeting. I entertain the motion.
14 We have one from Mr. Moss. We
15 have a second from Mr. Fajardo.

16 Any questions or comments
17 from the Board? Any questions or
18 comments from the public? Hearing
19 none, all in favor say aye.

20 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

21 Aye.

22 MR. JONES:

23 Any oppose? There is no
24 opposition. The motion carries.

25 First up is Quality Jobs



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1 Program. Ms. Adegbe, good to see
2 you this morning.

3 MS. ADEGBE:

4 Good morning. I have one new
5 application. 20180340-QJ,
6 Alliance Safety Council, East
7 Baton Rouge Parish. This
8 concludes the new applications.

9 MR. JONES:

10 I will entertain a motion to
11 approve. A motion from Mr. Moss.
12 A second from Mr. Wilson.

13 Any questions or comments
14 from the Board? Any questions or
15 comments from the public? Hearing
16 none, all in favor say aye.

17 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

18 Aye.

19 MR. JONES:

20 Any opposition? Hearing
21 none, the motion carries. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. ADEGBE:

24 I have one renewal contract.
25 20161534-QJ, Cabot Corporation,



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1 St. Mary Parish. This concludes
2 the renewals.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Entertain a motion to
5 approve. Motion from Mr. Moller.
6 Second from Mayor Toups.

7 Any questions or comments
8 from the Board? Hearing none.

9 Any questions or comments from
10 the public? Hearing none, all in
11 favor say aye.

12 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

13 Aye.

14 MR. JONES:

15 Any opposition? Hearing none,
16 the motion carries.

17 MS. ADEGBE:

18 I have one late renewal. The
19 following contract filed for
20 renewal after original contract
21 expiration. 20151166-QJ,
22 Louisiana Roots, LLC, Orleans
23 Parish. Contract effective date,
24 9-14-2015. Renewal due date,
25 11-13-2020. Late renewal request



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1 date received, 5-27-2021.

2 MR. JONES:

3 Do we have someone here from
4 Louisiana Roots? Would you
5 please come forward. And, again,
6 please pull the microphone close
7 up to your mouth.

8 MR. KYLE:

9 Good morning. My name is
10 Kyle. Vice President of the
11 Urban South Marine in New
12 Orleans. This program has been
13 huge for us. It's doing exactly
14 what it's supposed to be doing.
15 Since we opened, we have become
16 the 6th fastest growing regional
17 craft growing in the United
18 States. We have been able to add
19 40 manufacturing jobs, and it's
20 challenged us with the parameters
21 of \$14.50 an hour, and so it's
22 been doing great. We -- when we
23 realize that we submitted a
24 renewal late, we really didn't
25 receive any notice. It was five



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1 years ago when we applied. There
2 was zero employees. You know,
3 since then we have grown to 40,
4 and so we are requesting not to
5 have the one year penalty. If we
6 are able to renew this
7 application and have that one
8 year, we're obviously to continue
9 to invest our company, our
10 people, equipment and continue to
11 grow jobs here in Louisiana.

12 MR. JONES:

13 Help me understand what -- I
14 mean, I understand startup
15 companies and I understand growth
16 and those are the kind of
17 problems a company wants to have,
18 but having said that, filing
19 deadlines are important.

20 MR. KYLE:

21 Yes, sir.

22 MR. JONES:

23 So help me understand what
24 you are doing to make sure that
25 these kind of things, whether it



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1 be with LED, ITEP program or
2 something else. Help me
3 understand what you are doing to
4 make sure that that kind of thing
5 doesn't happen again.

6 MR. KYLE:

7 Certainly. You know, we have
8 so many applications to apply for
9 and make sure that we are on
10 time. This is atypical of us.
11 We are usually really on top of
12 things. My business partner who
13 typically handles these things is
14 making sure that everything is
15 added to the calendar,
16 technology, the calendar and
17 everything to make sure we are
18 well in advance. We didn't
19 realize at the time that we
20 didn't receive a notice to
21 reapply, and so now that we know
22 that, we make sure that don't do
23 that and we are moving forward.

24 MR. JONES:

25 I understand. Any questions



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1 or comments? Pardon me. My phone
2 is ringing and I'm trying to
3 ignore it, and it's my daughter,
4 which makes it that much more
5 difficult.

6 First of all, do we have a --
7 normally what happens on these
8 there is a one year penalty
9 because you were within the time
10 period that would be a one year
11 penalty, but I would exercise a
12 motion from the Board for a one
13 year penalty. Mr. Wilson.

14 Approval of the renewal but with
15 a one year penalty. Second from
16 Mr. Slone.

17 Any questions or comments
18 from the Board? Any questions or
19 comments from the public? Hearing
20 none all in favor say aye.

21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

22 Aye.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Any opposition? Being none,
25 motion carries. Thank you for



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1 renewing with Louisiana. We
2 appreciate it.

3 MS. ADEGBE:

4 This concludes Quality Jobs.

5 MR. JONES:

6 Thank you, Ms. Adegbe.

7 Ms. Lambert, welcome back.

8 We haven't seen you in a while.

9 MS. LAMBERT:

10 Thank you. I'm here
11 virtually but I'm back to
12 reality.

13 MR. JONES:

14 It's good to have you back
15 where we can all be together.

16 Please walk us through the
17 Restoration Tax Abatement
18 Applications.

19 MS. LAMBERT:

20 I will be glad to. We have
21 two new applications.

22 One 2020 -- first one, I'm
23 sorry, the first one is 20200374,
24 La Hermana Mayor, LLC in East
25 Baton Rouge Parish.



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1 20200399, Mercantile
2 Holdings, LLC in East Baton Rouge
3 Parish.

4 There are two and this
5 concludes the applications, the
6 new applications.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Do we recognize a motion to
9 approve the Restoration Tax
10 Abatement. From Mr. Nassar.
11 Second from Mr. Moller. Any
12 questions or comments from the
13 Board? Hearing none. Any
14 questions or comments from the
15 public? Hearing none, all in
16 favor say aye.

17 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

18 Aye.

19 MR. JONES:

20 Any opposition? Motion
21 carries.

22 MS. LAMBERT:

23 And we have two renewal
24 applications. They are both for
25 Community First Bank in Iberia.



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1 The application numbers are
2 20151346 and 20151347.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Do we enter a motion to
5 approve? Motion from Mr. Wilson.
6 Second from Mr. Moss.

7 Any questions or comments
8 from the Board? Any questions or
9 comments from the public? Hearing
10 none, all in favor say aye.

11 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

12 Aye.

13 MR. JONES:

14 Any opposition? Hearing none,
15 the motion carries.

16 MS. LAMBERT:

17 That concludes the
18 Restoration Tax Abatement Program
19 agenda.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Thank you, Ms. Lambert.

22 Now we have Enterprise Zone.

23 Ms. Metoyer.

24 MS. METOYER:

25 Good morning.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 Good morning.

3 MS. METOYER:

4 I have 13 new applications.

5 20180385, Benny's Car Wash,

6 LLC, East Baton Rouge Parish.

7 20180149, Diversified Foods &

8 Seasonings, LLC, St. Tammany.

9 20141332, Enlink Midstream

10 Operating, LP in Ascension

11 Parish.

12 20180525, Enmon Enterprises.

13 Tangipahoa Parish.

14 20160639, Excel Contractors

15 Incorporated, East Baton Rouge

16 Parish.

17 20151284, Excel Group

18 Services, Inc., Ascension Parish.

19 20151825, Excel Maintenance

20 Services Incorporated, East Baton

21 Rouge Parish.

22 20190168, Fabricated Steel

23 Products, East Baton Rouge

24 Parish.

25 20180227, Lafayette General



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1 Health System, Incorporated,
2 Vermilion Parish.

3 20200222, Leading Health Care
4 of Louisiana Incorporated,
5 Lafayette Parish.

6 20170468, Noble Plastics
7 Incorporated, St. Landry Parish.

8 20180173, Our Lady of Lourdes
9 Regional Medical Center,
10 Lafayette Parish.

11 And 20170401, Westlake
12 Management Services Incorporated,
13 Calcasieu Parish.

14 MR. JONES:

15 I will entertain a motion to
16 approve. Motion from Mr. Saizan.
17 Second from Mr. Moss.

18 Any questions or comments
19 from the Board about any of these
20 applications? Hearing none. Any
21 questions or comments from the
22 public? Hearing none. All in
23 favor say aye.

24 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

25 Aye.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 Any opposition? There is
3 none. Motion carries.

4 The Enterprise Zone Program.

5 MS. METOYER:

6 Terminations.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. METOYER:

10 20151388, Elmwood
11 Hospitality, LLC, Orleans Parish.

12 Existing contract is 3-1-17 to
13 2-28-22. Requested term date is
14 12-31 of 2019. The program
15 requirements have been met. No
16 additional jobs are anticipated.

17 20160850, Halliburton Energy
18 Services Incorporated, Iberia
19 Parish. The existing contract is
20 3-15-2018 to 3-14 of 2023.

21 Requested term date is
22 12-31-2020. Program requirements
23 have been met. No additional
24 jobs are anticipated.

25 20150157, Metairie Hotel



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1 Ventures, LLC, Orleans Parish.
2 The existing contract is 11-15 of
3 2015 through 11-14 of 2020. The
4 requested termination date is
5 12-31-2019. The program
6 requirements have been met. No
7 additional jobs are anticipated.

8 20161505, Optimal Field
9 Services Incorporated -- I'm
10 sorry -- Optimal Field Services,
11 LLC, Ascension Parish. The
12 existing contract is 6-21-2016
13 through 6-20-2021. The requested
14 term date is 12-31 of 2019. The
15 program requirements have been
16 met. No additional jobs are
17 anticipated.

18 201351391, SLC Hospitality,
19 LLC, Calcasieu Parish. The
20 existing contract is of 3-15 of
21 '17 to 3--- sorry -- 3-14 of
22 2022. The requested term date is
23 12-31 of 2019. The program
24 requirements have been met. No
25 additional jobs are anticipated.



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1 20160725, Turner Industrial
2 Maintenance, LLC, East Baton
3 Rouge Parish. The existing
4 contract is 8-1-16 to 7-31-2021.
5 The requested term date is
6 12-31-2019. The program
7 requirements have been met. No
8 additional jobs are anticipated.

9 20160720, Turner Industries
10 Group, LLC, West Baton Rouge
11 Parish. The existing contract is
12 9-1 of '16 through 8-31 of 2021.
13 The requested term date is 12-31
14 of 2019. The program
15 requirements have been met. No
16 additional jobs are anticipated.

17 20160723, Turner Industries
18 Group, LLC, East Baton Rouge
19 Parish. The existing contract is
20 7-1 of 16 through 6-30 of 2021.
21 The requested term date is 6-30
22 of 2019. The program
23 requirements have been met. No
24 additional jobs are anticipated.

25 20160724, Turner Industries



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1 Group, LLC, West Baton Rouge.
2 The existing contract is 9-1-2016
3 through 8-31 of 2021. The
4 requested term date is 12-31 of
5 2019. The program requirements
6 have been met. No additional
7 jobs are anticipated.

8 20160726, Turner Specialty
9 Services, LLC, East Baton Rouge
10 Parish. The existing contract is
11 6-1 of '16 through 5-31 of 2021.
12 The requested term date is 12-31
13 of 2019. The program
14 requirements have been met. No
15 additional jobs are anticipated.

16 20160893, Weatherford USLP,
17 Lafayette Parish. The existing
18 contract is 9-13 of 2016 through
19 9-12 of 2021. The requested term
20 date is 12-31 of 2019. The
21 program requirements have been
22 met. No additional jobs are
23 anticipated.

24 And 20160721, Turner
25 Industries Group, LLC, Calcasieu



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1 Parish. The existing contract is
2 3-4-2016 through 3-3 of 2021.
3 The requested term date is 12-31
4 of 2019. The program
5 requirements have been met. No
6 additional jobs are anticipated.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Thank you. We entertain a
9 motion to approve. A motion from
10 Mr. Fajardo. Second from Mr.
11 Moss.

12 Any questions or comments
13 from the Board? Forgive me. Yes.
14 Dr. Thompson will be recusing
15 herself from any action on
16 Halliburton Energy Services No.
17 20160850. That means she will
18 not be voting or commenting or
19 otherwise participating in the
20 vote.

21 So we have a motion and we
22 have a second. Any questions or
23 comments from the Board? Any
24 comments from the public? Hearing
25 none, all in favor say aye.



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1 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

2 Aye.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Any opposition? Hearing

5 none. The motion carries.

6 Move right ahead.

7 MS. METOYER:

8 The first request to add

9 owner to an existing contract.

10 It's 20160984. Gator Millworks

11 Incorporated. And on the third

12 application there was an owner

13 listed in the -- the sole owner

14 is Chad Foster and they wish to

15 add him to the contract, and this

16 is for Livingston Parish.

17 MR. JONES:

18 How is it there are no owners

19 on the original application?

20 MS. METOYER:

21 This is an S Corp, and it

22 flows through to the owners, so

23 the majority of the corporations

24 don't usually list any owners.

25 They might list affiliates but



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1 not owners.

2 MR. JONES:

3 And Mr. Foster is the --

4 MS. METOYER:

5 He is the sole owner.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Okay. Got it.

8 Entertain a motion to

9 approve. Motion from Mr. Wilson.

10 Second from Mr. Slone. I have a

11 motion and second.

12 Any questions or comments

13 from the public? Excuse me. From

14 the Board? And then I will get to

15 the public. Any comments from

16 the public? Hearing none, all in

17 favor say aye.

18 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

19 Aye.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Any opposition? Motion

22 carries.

23 MS. METOYER:

24 We have a request to add

25 affiliates to an existing



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1 contract.
2 20150258, Equilon
3 Enterprises, LLC. The current
4 owners are TMR Company, Shell Oil
5 Products Company, LLC, and Shell
6 Oil Company. The new LLC members
7 will be Shell Oil Products
8 Company, LLC; Shell Oil Company;
9 and Shell Oil Chemical, LP, and
10 this is in St. Charles Parish.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Motion to approve. Mayor
13 Toups. Second from Dr. Wilson.
14 Any questions or comments from
15 the Board? Hearing none. Any
16 comments from the public? Hearing
17 none. All in favor say aye.

18 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

19 Aye.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Any opposition? There is
22 none.

23 MS. METOYER:

24 And I have a request to add
25 owner and affiliate to an



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1 existing contract.

2 20190007, Edward Via Virginia
3 College of Osteopathic Medicine.
4 The current owner and affiliate
5 is Edward Via College of
6 Osteopathic Medicine, and the new
7 owner and affiliate will be
8 Harvey W. Peters Research
9 Foundation, and this is in
10 Ouachita Parish.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Do we have a motion to
13 approve? I have a motion from
14 Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. -- Dr.
15 Wilson.

16 Any questions or comments
17 from the Board? Hearing none.
18 Any comments from the public?
19 Hearing none. All in favor say
20 aye.

21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

22 Aye.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Any opposition? There is
25 none. The motion carries.



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1 MS. METOYER:

2 That concludes EZ.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Thank you, ma'am. As we
5 start the Industrial Tax
6 Exemptions Application and come
7 forward, I was -- I was -- I
8 failed to introduce -- we have a
9 new board member that has been
10 just appointed. Ms. Sandra
11 McQuain from Alexandria. Welcome
12 to our office group. It's not
13 always an adjective that is used
14 to describe us, but I will choose
15 that one today. All right. It's
16 good to have you. Absolutely.

17 All right. We have
18 Industrial Tax Exemption for the
19 Pre-EO application.

20 MR. USIE:

21 We have four Pre-Executive
22 Order New Applications. One
23 company is requesting deferral.
24 20141117, YCI Methanol One, LLC
25 in St. James Parish.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 I will be recusing myself
3 from any activity from YCI
4 application, but I will
5 facilitate the meeting, so I
6 entertain a motion to approve for
7 deferral. We have a motion from
8 Mr. Wilson. Second from Ms.
9 Villa.

10 Any questions or comments
11 from the Board? Any comments
12 from the public? Hearing none.
13 The motion -- excuse me -- let's
14 vote. All in favor say aye.

15 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

16 Aye.

17 MR. JONES:

18 Any opposition? There being
19 none, the motion carries through
20 YCI is deferred.

21 MR. USIE:

22 2015056, D-PT, Louisiana
23 Integrated Polyethylene JV, LLC,
24 Calcasieu Parish.

25 20141610-B, Marathon



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1 Petroleum Company, LP, St. John
2 the Baptist Parish.

3 And 20150156-D, Sasol USA
4 Corporation, Calcasieu Parish.

5 MR. JONES:

6 As it's the Board's custom on
7 these Pre-EO applications, we
8 invite the applicants to come and
9 tell us a little bit about the
10 project and where we are and what
11 we have to look forward to. Do
12 we have someone here from
13 Louisiana Integrated
14 Polyethylene? I think -- that's
15 the same as Sasol as I appreciate
16 it. Y'all go ahead and come
17 forward.

18 With the Board's permission,
19 at least for the presentation of
20 this, we can take up Louisiana
21 Integrated Polyethylene and Sasol
22 Corporation together. I think
23 the comments will be the same.
24 Is that fair.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:



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1 Yes, sir.

2 MR. JONES:

3 All right. Who would like to
4 speak first.

5 MR. GRIFFITH:

6 Chairman, I will start. Good
7 morning, ladies and gentlemen.
8 My name is Brad Griffith. I am
9 the Executive Vice-President for
10 Sasol's chemical business
11 globally and chairman of the
12 corporation, and I am joined
13 today by Sasol America's chief
14 financial officer as well as our
15 senior manager for corporate
16 affairs.

17 We appreciate the opportunity
18 to speak with you today. The
19 application before you is -- for
20 your consideration is of a great
21 importance to Sasol. But before
22 we speak about ITEP, I would like
23 to share with you a little bit
24 about Sasol and our growth and
25 commitment to the State of



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1 Louisiana.

2 Sasol is a global chemical
3 and energy company with 30,000
4 employees in 30 countries. We
5 have been a corporate citizen in
6 the State of Louisiana for
7 several decades, and over the
8 years we've grown our operations
9 and our employment incrementally.
10 Most recently with the advent of
11 our Lake Charles chemical
12 project, which I know the Board
13 has heard about over the years
14 and nearly \$13 billion investment
15 in the state. Our Lake Charles
16 project included seven brand new
17 chemical manufacturing
18 facilities, and in the year of
19 2020, the year of the pandemic,
20 we completed an additional
21 operation of up to seven and
22 final facility. The southwest
23 Louisiana project was really a
24 game changer for our company, and
25 we believe it's the largest form



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1 of direct investment in the
2 history of the United States.

3 With that background, we
4 thank you, the Louisiana Board of
5 Commerce and Industry, the
6 Louisiana Economics Development
7 colleagues, Governor Edwards and
8 our partners at the local level
9 for giving us that opportunity to
10 really bring impactful benefits
11 to the residents and businesses
12 in the state.

13 I'm here today to do three
14 things. One to express the
15 thanks and appreciation of the
16 executive leadership of Sasol.
17 Second, to advocate your approval
18 for our application. And,
19 finally, to answer the Board's
20 call, which we have heard you
21 loud and clear to make sure that
22 you see a demonstrative return on
23 the state's ITEP investment.

24 About eight years ago Sasol
25 and the State of Louisiana



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1 entered into this public private
2 partnership to invest in the
3 state's future. In summary,
4 Sasol agreed to make the largest
5 capital investment in our history
6 and to create hundreds of jobs.
7 In turn, the state agreed to one
8 hundred percent of property tax
9 on that improvement over -- to be
10 considered over two five year
11 terms. In previous years my
12 colleague, Mike Thomas, shared
13 with the you immeasurable
14 benefits of the project during
15 the construction, and I want you
16 to note that the project is fully
17 commissioned and I'm very pleased
18 to say that we did deliver on our
19 commitment. We did create jobs
20 and we did generate tax revenue
21 to the local tax entities. We
22 delivered more than 800 new
23 direct jobs. More than 90
24 percent of those hires are
25 Louisiana residents. The

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1 majority from Calcasieu Parish
2 with an average annual salary of
3 more than \$80,000 a year. We've
4 delivered more than 6,500
5 construction jobs during the
6 project, and expect an additional
7 one thousand or so contract
8 workers that will support our
9 operations and maintenance
10 annually. We've delivered more
11 than \$4.3 billion of -- spent
12 with Louisiana businesses and we
13 paid millions in payroll,
14 property, sales and use taxes for
15 Calcasieu Parish throughout the
16 construction operational phase.
17 And to give you some view of
18 those numbers, I would like to
19 ask for my partner to speak at
20 this time.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

22 Thank you, Brad. Good
23 morning, Chairman Jones I'm --
24 can you hear me?

25 MR. JONES:



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1 A little bit closer.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

3 Can you hear me now.

4 MR. JONES:

5 That's better.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

7 Good morning. My name is Dr.
8 Buld (ph). Thank you, Brad. We
9 have delivered \$156 million of
10 sales and used tax payments from
11 the LCCP assets to Calcasieu
12 Parish. \$39 million in sales and
13 used tax payments to the state.
14 Our local school board and
15 sheriff office have confirmed
16 that these payments makes
17 teachers salaries, school
18 equipment, emergency and other
19 critical services possible for
20 local residents. We have
21 delivered more than \$40 million
22 of infrastructure improvements.
23 These include new roads, sewer,
24 water and electrical
25 infrastructure. Most of it in



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1 the city of wasteland. The Port
2 of Lake Charles and our local
3 economic development authority
4 confirm that we have already seen
5 additional economical -- economic
6 ripple from these infrastructure
7 investments in the state from
8 other industries. By our
9 calculation, this state will see
10 a 221 return on its ITEP
11 investment in our LTTC assets,
12 and ultimately by 2016 when our
13 facilities are still running and
14 many of our newly hired LTTC
15 employees are well into their
16 careers with Sasol and our joint
17 venture, and I'm hopefully
18 retired by then, we would have
19 paid more than \$1 billion of
20 property taxes from our LCCP
21 taxes alone. Thank you.

22 MR. GRIFFITH:

23 Thank you, Nina (ph).

24 Chairman Jones, members of the
25 Board, as I said before, it was



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1 an agreement between parties. A
2 win, win agreement. It's a true
3 partnership, and we believe that
4 we are demonstrating to you that
5 that type of partnership can pay
6 off for the State of Louisiana
7 and our residents. We believe
8 the state's agreement was a smart
9 one, and we believe that the
10 returns are already there, and on
11 behalf of more than 1100
12 Louisiana employees and
13 contractors at our facility and
14 30,000 employees globally, thank
15 you for your consideration.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Thank you. Do we have any
18 questions or comments from the
19 Board? Mr. Moss.

20 MR. MOSS:

21 Yes. I would like the Board
22 to know that literally these
23 people are in my backyard in
24 Calcasieu Parish. I drive
25 through that project at different



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1 times. I have seen it. They
2 have been great corporate
3 neighbors. They have employed a
4 lot of people, and I so make the
5 motion to approve this.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
8 Moss. Second by from Dr.
9 Thompson. I know we have some
10 other speakers, I believe, that
11 have signed up to speak on behalf
12 of this project. With the
13 Board's okay, I'm going to go
14 ahead and let the other speakers
15 go on and that way if we have
16 other questions the Board may
17 have.

18 I know we have Dr.
19 Richardson who is signed up to
20 speak.

21 Before -- I'm sorry. I do
22 have -- I had one question. Help
23 me understand the relationship
24 between Sasol USA and Louisiana
25 Integrated Polyethylene.



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1 MR. GRIFFITH:

2 Yes, sir. So, in late 2020,
3 we formed a joint venture for a
4 portion of our assets at the site
5 with liability excel, who is also
6 a local employer. We formed the
7 joint venture called Louisiana
8 Integrated Polyethylene, LLC. We
9 are 50/50 owners in the joint
10 venture. They are the operator
11 but we operate it all together as
12 one site, which is the same
13 project intent. The plants are
14 all running. The same employees
15 are there that we hired.
16 Transferred over. There was no
17 change in their employment status
18 when we made that decision for
19 joint venture. For your
20 indulgence, I'm sure the chairman
21 might ask why would Sasol do
22 that. Over the years we made some
23 decisions around the strategy
24 long term and decided that
25 polymers and Polyethylene would



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1 not be a strategic growth area
2 and we completed the project and
3 we are very happy with our
4 partner that is the Polyethylene
5 as a long term strategy.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Thank you. We are clear on
8 those two separate projects.

9 Thank you. Dr. Richardson.

10 DR. RICHARDSON:

11 Thank you, Mr. Jones. Thank
12 you. A few words.

13 I was asked to help examine
14 Sasal's application and also to
15 work with them over time up to
16 the time in terms of their impact
17 on the State of Louisiana, and in
18 particularly in Calcasieu Parish,
19 and when I started, the line was
20 vacant. Today it is at work.
21 And during that time, they did
22 several things. One, they spent
23 about \$13 billion, and in
24 spending that, what is really
25 important in the State of



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1 Louisiana is how much goes in the
2 state, and they made a commitment
3 to look at Louisiana firms, and
4 they did, and they made that
5 commitment about \$4 billion for
6 Louisiana firms operating the
7 state, and that means hiring
8 people in the state. During --
9 not during the project, but also
10 in the future as well. So that
11 was the first.

12 And in that process, now in
13 2021, as the capital project has
14 been completed, they have spent
15 -- created about 6,500 jobs in
16 the state, and very, very
17 impressive. If you look at
18 Calcasieu Parish, look at what we
19 call labor market five, which
20 includes five parishes, Calcasieu
21 being the biggest by far, they
22 essentially had 20 percent of the
23 state's construction employment
24 in those five parishes. Though
25 they only had seven percent of



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1 the total employment, so, again,
2 the construction of that facility
3 was very large, had impact on
4 that area of our state. So that
5 was the first thing.

6 Second thing as he even
7 noted, they already paid in
8 global taxes about \$160 million.
9 That is an impressive number.
10 They also paid to the state, and
11 this is not an estimate, this is
12 a fact, about almost \$40 million,
13 so those are things that already
14 been done. They already had all
15 of the workers, so the
16 construction project, as we made
17 our estimates, have really been
18 right on.

19 Now, the next stage of that
20 facility is the production, and
21 they are going to be doing that
22 for the next 30 years, and in
23 that process they have already
24 hired 832 permanent jobs in
25 addition to the ones that they



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1 had before the construction of
2 this facility. But even that
3 underestimates and working there
4 because they had other firms in
5 the state to provide maintenance,
6 provide other services that they
7 were not doing on a day by day
8 basis themselves, and there you
9 talking about another thousand or
10 so jobs in dealing with that, and
11 what we did, they asked me to
12 look at the numbers to come up
13 with some type of return because
14 obviously, again, the state is
15 putting up some incentive or some
16 dollars through the ITEP program,
17 and we looked at the numbers and
18 we looked at what they had
19 already done and what they will
20 do over the next 30 years, and we
21 came out with a benefit ratio of
22 2 to 1. We came out a rate of
23 return about 20 percent, which is
24 a very good return under any
25 conditions, so from that angle,



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1 we felt that the ITEP program was
2 doing what it's supposed to be
3 doing, bringing jobs to the
4 state, bringing additional
5 revenues, local revenues, local
6 government and state government
7 in exchange for an element of
8 that exemption program through
9 five -- two five year periods.
10 So that's how we came up that,
11 and will be happy to answer any
12 questions, if you have any, about
13 how we got the numbers and about
14 the impact of Sasol in the State
15 of Louisiana.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Thank you, Mr. Richardson.

18 Any questions from the Board of
19 Dr. Richardson?

20 Hearing none. Thank you,
21 sir. I appreciate you being here
22 this morning.

23 And then we have signed to
24 speak, Mr. Franks.

25 State your name and position,



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1 please.

2 MR. FRANKS:

3 Yes, sir. Good morning, Mr.
4 Jones. Ladies and gentlemen of
5 the Board, my name is David
6 Franks. I am the Chief Operating
7 Officer of Turner Industries, LLC
8 here in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
9 The ITEP program, we know, leads
10 not only to the direct jobs Mr.
11 Griffith talked about and the
12 construction jobs that come on
13 with that, but also the thousands
14 of what I call indirect direct
15 jobs that support this ongoing
16 operation as it continues. The
17 -- these are not officially
18 counted maybe in the ITEP type
19 program, but it's -- I'm here to
20 talk and expand the dialog a
21 little bit for the Board's
22 consideration. The past
23 incentive given to Sasol not only
24 led to the 800 direct jobs that
25 Mr. Griffith referred to and the



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1 6,500 construction jobs that were
2 ongoing during the project, but
3 currently we have a thousand
4 people inside Sasal's program
5 people, their site and their
6 expansion on a daily basis ranges
7 anywhere from facility
8 maintenance to ground maintenance
9 to construction services that we
10 use in keeping their units
11 running, getting their units more
12 efficient, and these types of
13 jobs are there every day through
14 COVID, rain or shine, and these
15 jobs are the backbone of what
16 makes up the maintenance and
17 internal vision of Turner
18 Industries, so this thousand --
19 to give you some perspective,
20 Sasol has been a customer of
21 Turner for many, many years.
22 This project tripled our presence
23 within that, and this is a
24 Louisiana based company,
25 Louisiana employees. We are not

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1 bringing these maintenance
2 employees and day to day
3 employees from out of state.
4 They are from the state,
5 predominantly from the southwest
6 Louisiana area. They are making
7 an average about 65,000 a year
8 and they have a job they can
9 depend on as long as this
10 operation continues, and with the
11 joint venture we expect that to
12 continue.

13 We have over 75 local
14 southwest Louisiana suppliers,
15 contractors and vendors that
16 support us in our efforts to
17 continue Sasal's joint venture of
18 running and operating. We have
19 over 250 sites across the United
20 States, but 90 other sites just
21 like Sasol inside of Louisiana,
22 and these ITEP investments
23 directly impact our Louisiana
24 base company and other Louisiana
25 base companies and our Louisiana



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1 employees. We are just one
2 example of the many, many
3 businesses that benefit from
4 industrial growth and expansion
5 in the state, and it's not just
6 construction, it gets into
7 maintenance, it gets into real
8 estate, it gets into retail and
9 hospitality. These are all
10 effects of these types of
11 investments in our state, and
12 every sector of the local economy
13 is impacted by major projects
14 like this one and others that
15 might be to come.

16 I want you to know the ripple
17 effect is absolutely real. It
18 benefits Louisiana residents and
19 it benefits Louisiana families,
20 and that's ultimately the purpose
21 of this program is to stimulate
22 the growth that causes that
23 ripple effect throughout all
24 areas of our state.

25 We employ roughly 20,000



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1 people of Turner across the
2 company, but specifically on a
3 13,000 plus Louisiana base
4 employees and the myriad of other
5 employees that are counterparts
6 within this industry, I think,
7 would support this.

8 We encourage you to approve
9 Sasal's request, and it's
10 critical to ensure Louisiana
11 continues to attract this type of
12 quality industrial operator. I
13 thank you for both for your time
14 and consideration in this matter.

15 MR. JONES:

16 Thank you, Mr. Franks.

17 Any questions or comments
18 from the Board? Thank you, sir. I
19 appreciate you being here today.

20 And I have a card from Mr.
21 George Swift. George, it's
22 always good to have you here.
23 Please state your name for the
24 record.

25 MR. SWIFT:



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1 Thank you, Chairman Jones and
2 members of the Board. I am
3 George swift, Lake Charles. The
4 Chamber of Southwest representing
5 about 1250 members in our
6 southwest Louisiana economic
7 development alliance which
8 represents the five parishes of
9 Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu,
10 Cameron and Jeff Davis, and you
11 have heard already about the
12 tremendous economic ripple
13 through southwest Louisiana,
14 namely the millions of dollars
15 spent with local businesses,
16 hundreds of jobs created for
17 local residents and tax revenues
18 generated for local and state
19 governments, and it's important,
20 I think, to repeat that despite
21 the global changes that we have
22 had in the last several years,
23 particularly in the last year,
24 and the change of ownership in
25 the new agreement that they have

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1 continued the permanent jobs that
2 actually exceeded the permanent
3 jobs that were in the original
4 application. I think that's
5 commendable.

6 Also, in addition to that,
7 which stands alone its own right,
8 Sasol has also invested in the
9 long term prosperity in the
10 community as a whole. They form
11 the southwest Louisiana resource
12 guide and associated scholarship
13 program. They funded a small
14 business resource guide. They
15 invested time and resources to
16 maximize opportunities for our
17 workforce, not only with their
18 project but well into the future.

19 One of the things they have
20 done is they planted over a
21 thousand trees, and after the two
22 hurricanes that we've had, we
23 need more trees, so that was a
24 great project and we might need
25 that again. They've also donated



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1 a stem exhibit to the local
2 children's museum. They have
3 employees that teach local kids
4 and students about science and
5 how it's used in their industry.
6 They were the largest private
7 donor to Port Wonder, which is a
8 new world class childrens museum
9 that will soon be built in Lake
10 Charles, and the points is at
11 south -- Sasol is a community
12 partner and one that we value
13 tremendously at the economic
14 development alliance, and it's
15 all made possible by the
16 industrial tax exemption, which
17 is exactly what it was planned to
18 do, and we were involved in this
19 project as they were seeking a
20 site. It was a very competitive
21 competition, and I assure you,
22 and the company will assure you
23 that the ITEP made this
24 difference in coming to the Lake
25 Charles area and southwest

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1 Louisiana; otherwise, it could
2 have gone to Texas or Canada, so
3 we're very fortunate, and thank
4 you for your support of this
5 important program.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Thank you, George. Any
8 questions or comments for Mr.
9 Swift?

10 George, change the subject
11 just slightly. Just know that
12 Lake Charles and Cameron has not
13 been forgotten. I know at times
14 it seems like it as I drive
15 through there, and as I told you
16 earlier, it breaks my heart
17 seeing what you guys are having
18 to deal with and hope that relief
19 comes soon.

20 MR. SWIFT:

21 Thank you very. We're very
22 resilient. We have got a lot of
23 work to do, and despite that, we
24 have got a lot of industrial
25 projects that are keeping the



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1 economy strong.

2 MR. JONES:

3 In addition, so the Board
4 will know, there are letters of
5 support for these two
6 applications from Steve
7 Waguespack of the Louisiana
8 Association of Business and
9 Industry. From Dr. Neil
10 Aspenwall (ph), the chancellor of
11 technical community college. For
12 Mr. Greg Bowser (ph) with the
13 Louisiana Chemical Association.
14 Let's see. I am not reading this
15 name very well. Lake Area
16 Industry Alliance.

17 So I will be submitting these
18 to the secretary so they can be
19 entered into the record of this
20 meeting.

21 Any other -- any questions or
22 comments from the Board
23 concerning Sasol US Corporation
24 or the Louisiana Integrated
25 Polyethylene, LLC application?



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1 I would propose to take them
2 both up at the same time since
3 they are essentially one in the
4 same project. Unless there is an
5 objection, we will do so. I
6 would entertain a motion to
7 approve. We have the motion, so
8 that's correct. Thank you, Mr.
9 Moss. We have a motion to
10 approve each of these two
11 applications.

12 Any comments from the public?
13 Hearing none. All in favor say
14 aye.

15 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

16 Aye.

17 MR. JONES:

18 Any opposition? There being
19 no opposition, the motion
20 carries.

21 Now, the remaining matter
22 before the Board on this item on
23 the agenda is 2014160 from
24 Marathon Petroleum Company. Is
25 there someone here for Marathon?



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1 MS. SIMONEAUX:

2 Good morning.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Good morning. Please
5 introduce yourself and your
6 position with the company,
7 please.

8 MS. SIMONEAUX:

9 Good morning. Lindsey
10 Simoneaux. ITEP coordinator of
11 the oil refinery, and Dan, the
12 controller of the refinery.

13 MR. JONES:

14 You have some preliminary
15 comments or questions? Do you
16 have some comments for us?

17 MS. SIMONEAUX:

18 I was going to give a summary
19 of the project. This is a SIS
20 applications phase B. This is a
21 -- this is phase 2 of a multiyear
22 program to upgrade our safety
23 instrument SIS systems throughout
24 the refinery, and this phase
25 includes improvements to the



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1 standards including fuel
2 transmitters and multiple units.
3 This project allows us to safely
4 shut down an unplan -- there is
5 no return on investment and this
6 is simply to protect our
7 employees equipment and
8 community. There had been
9 additional applications filed for
10 the year phases up through 2027.

11 MR. JONES:

12 How many phases do you
13 anticipate that you are going to
14 get.

15 MS. SIMONEAUX:

16 7 or 8.

17 MR. JONES:

18 And this is No. 2. 2 of 7 or
19 8.

20 MS. SIMONEAUX:

21 Yes. And then the turnaround
22 cycles, so that's why it's once a
23 year.

24 MR. JONES:

25 So each time you do a



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1 turnaround is when do you this
2 particular part of the project
3 for the part that is being turned
4 around.

5 MS. SIMONEAUX:

6 Correct.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Inartfully said, but I hope
9 you understood.

10 MS. SIMONEAUX:

11 Yes. Any further comments?

12 Any questions or comments from
13 the Board. Any comments from the
14 public?

15 Do we have a motion? We do
16 have a motion from Mr. Wilson.
17 Second from Mr. Nassar.

18 Any questions or comments?
19 There being none, all in favor
20 say aye.

21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

22 Aye.

23 MR. JONES:

24 Any opposition? There is
25 none. The motion carries.



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1 Thank y'all for being here
2 this morning.

3 All right.

4 MR. UBIE:

5 Next we have one new
6 application following the 2017
7 rules. 20170067-J, WestRock, CP,
8 LLC in Jackson Parish.

9 MR. JONES:

10 All right. Do we have any --
11 a motion to approve? I have a
12 motion to approve West Rock, CP.
13 Motion from Mr. Slone. Second
14 from Mr. Wilson.

15 Any questions or comments
16 from the Board? Do we have
17 anybody here from West Rock?

18 Come tell us what you are
19 doing so we understand, if you
20 don't mind.

21 Good morning. Please state
22 your name.

23 MR. POWELL:

24 Todd Powell. Engineering
25 manager of West Rock.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 Tell us what you are doing in
3 the plant of the -- of the
4 project, of this project.

5 MR. POWELL:

6 This project is part of a
7 larger project of jobs program.
8 Invest over \$150 million in a
9 five year period, and this is
10 part of that project or that
11 series of projects.

12 MR. JONES:

13 This is to retain it?

14 MR. POWELL:

15 To upgrade the plant so you
16 -- of the state as part of the
17 job retention.

18 MR. JONES:

19 So it's an intent to retain
20 the folks who are there to
21 upgrade the plant.

22 MR. POWELL:

23 That's correct. Keep is under
24 400 jobs.

25 MR. JONES:



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1 That's the reason there is no
2 new jobs.

3 MR. POWELL:

4 Yes, sir. That's right.

5 MR. JONES:

6 That's what I wanted to
7 understand. Thank you, sir.

8 Any other questions or
9 comments? All right. Any
10 comments from the public? There
11 being none, all in favor say aye.

12 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

13 Aye.

14 MR. JONES:

15 Any opposition? There being
16 none, the motion carries. Thank
17 you, sir. I appreciate what you
18 are doing in Louisiana.

19 MR. UBIE:

20 Next we have 19 Post-EO
21 Applications following the 2018
22 rules. We have one that is
23 requesting withdrawal.

24 It's 20210197, Pod Pack
25 International, LLC in East Baton



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1 Rouge Parish.

2 MR. JONES:

3 This is the withdrawal, not
4 the referral.

5 MR. UBIE:

6 Withdrawal.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Entertain a motion to approve
9 the withdrawal of the Pod Pack
10 International. Motion from Mayor
11 Toups. Second from Dr. Wilson.

12 Any questions or comments
13 from the Board? Hearing none.
14 Comments from the public? Hearing
15 none. All in favor say aye.

16 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

17 Aye. Any opposition? That
18 application is withdrawn.

19 MR. UBIE:

20 We have eight deferral
21 request.

22 20200422, Bueche PV1, LLC,
23 West Baton Rouge Parish.

24 20200219, Graphic Packaging
25 International, LLC in Ouachita



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1 Parish.
2 20200021, International Mezzo
3 Technology, East Baton Rouge
4 Parish.
5 20210121, LACC, LLC in
6 Calcasieu Parish.
7 200200092, Metalplate
8 Galvanizing, LP in Jefferson
9 Davis Parish.
10 20190509, Peppers Unlimited
11 of Louisiana, Inc. in St. Martin
12 Parish.
13 20190485, Stuller, Inc. in
14 Lafayette Parish.
15 And 20190057-A, Stupp Bros.,
16 Inc. dba Stupp Corporation in
17 East Baton Rouge Parish.
18 MR. JONES:
19 Okay. I would entertain a
20 motion to defer these as just
21 listed. Motion from Mr. Slone.
22 Second from Ms. Villa.
23 Any questions or comments
24 from the Board? Hearing none.
25 Any questions or comments from



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1 the public? Hearing none. All in
2 favor of deferrals say aye.

3 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

4 Aye.

5 MR. JONES:

6 Any opposition? There being
7 none, those items are deferred to
8 the next meeting. Okay.

9 MR. UBIE:

10 I do have one correction. It
11 is for 20200058, Kitchen MAJGEK,
12 LLC. It says 50 construction
13 jobs. It should be zero. It was
14 an error on the application.

15 MR. JONES:

16 All right. Now, we do have
17 some request to speak on the
18 Bayou Galion Solar Project. I'm
19 going to propose to the Board
20 that we handle all matters
21 in-globo with the exception of
22 Bayou Galion Solar Project. Is
23 that acceptable to the Board?

24 So I would entertain a motion
25 to approve -- state the motion



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1 before we make it.

2 A motion to approve all items
3 not withdrawn, not deferred and
4 except for Bayou Galion Solar
5 Project. Mr. McInnis.

6 MR. MCINNIS:

7 I move.

8 MR. JONES:

9 We have a motion from Mr.
10 McInnis. Second from Mr.
11 Fajardo. Any questions or
12 comments from the Board?

13 MR. UBIE:

14 You want me to read --

15 MR. JONES:

16 It would be a good idea.
17 Y'all, it takes a village. I'm
18 telling y'all. Bear with me. I
19 have my daughter calling me in
20 the middle of a meeting and
21 everything.

22 MR. UBIE:

23 20210225, BASF Corporation,
24 Ascension Parish.

25 20210277, Chalmette Refining,



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1 LLC in St. Bernard Parish.
2 Sorry. I skipped one.
3 20190465, Bollinger Quick
4 Repair, LLC in Jefferson Parish.
5 20210262, Delta Biofuel, LLC,
6 Iberia Parish.
7 20210184, Ingevity South
8 Carolina, LLC in Beauregard
9 Parish.
10 20200058, Kitchen MAJGEK, LLC
11 Ren's Kitchen. Lafayette Parish.
12 20180377, Louisiana Sugar
13 Refining, LLC, St. James Parish.
14 201804998, Procter and Gamble
15 Manufacturing, Rapides Parish.
16 And 20210148, Weyerhaeuser NR
17 Company, Livingston Parish.
18 MR. JONES:
19 Okay. Now, we have a motion
20 from Mr. McInnis for all of these
21 that Mr. Ubie had listed. We
22 have a second from Mr. Fajardo.
23 Now we are procedurally in place
24 where we need to be.
25 Any questions or comments on



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1 any of these? Comments from the
2 public? Hearing none. All in
3 favor say aye.

4 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

5 Aye.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Any opposition? There being
8 none, the motion carries.

9 Now let's circle back around
10 to 202110138, Bayou Galion Solar
11 Project. Let's have a motion on
12 the floor so we can make sure we
13 are in the proper posture that we
14 don't have a discussion that we
15 need to have. Do I have a
16 motion? Motion from Mr. Wilson
17 to approve. Second from Mr.
18 Saizan.

19 Okay. Now, I have some
20 people who have signed up to
21 speak on that matter.

22 Start with Ms. Jennifer
23 Brown, Washington Parish
24 Community. Thank you, Ms.
25 Brown. Would you state your name



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1 and who you represent, group, and
2 just tell us what you have to say
3 about the project.

4 MS. BROWN:

5 Good morning. My name is
6 Jennifer Brown. I am the
7 President of the Louisiana Bee
8 Keepers Association, and I'm also
9 here representing the citizens of
10 Tangipahoa and Washington Parish
11 and Louisiana Coalition for
12 Protecting Citizens Against
13 Unregulated Solar translating
14 into hundreds of concerned voters
15 across the state.

16 Our interest in this
17 particular meeting is widely
18 assisting to push forward on
19 allowing Morehouse to qualify for
20 ITEP when there are plans to few
21 regulations for solar projects
22 beginning tomorrow.

23 First, our understanding,
24 ITEP is for industries that bring
25 jobs and manufacturing to



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1 Louisiana not to displace jobs.
2 Looking specifically at the solar
3 power plant in Washington Parish,
4 which is very similar to the one
5 in Farmerville. I know, my
6 daughter goes to school there.
7 We know during solar construction
8 very few construction jobs were
9 offered as a majority of
10 construction workers were ones
11 that traveled around with the
12 company. These workers spent
13 very little revenue in the town.
14 In the end, one permanent job
15 alone created for 15 megawatt
16 projects. This is not a
17 justifiable number to garner
18 benefits from ITEP. The commerce
19 and industry committee was
20 created to attract jobs not just
21 one or two.

22 Second, the state benefits
23 from increased income taxes
24 generated by new businesses.
25 Looking at the overall economic



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1 impact due to the amount being
2 taken out of production, more
3 jobs will be lost and created by
4 solar projects. More jobs will
5 be lost and created by any of
6 these solar projects.

7 The parish loses needed local
8 revenues and the state loses
9 income tax generated by the jobs
10 displaced. In the end both state
11 and parish possibly will be left
12 to surface the cost of
13 decommissioning should the solar
14 projects go bankrupt and leave.
15 Overall this will be no economic
16 benefit to the state or the
17 parish, and I have supporting
18 numbers offered by Kushner Grace
19 CPA firm out of Metairie.

20 On behalf of the groups
21 represented, I request this Board
22 not to vote today concerning the
23 solar project and the regulation
24 is put into place and the proper
25 procedure are allowed to happen.



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1 Given other solar projects
2 denying this exemption does not
3 keep solar companies to continue
4 from developing projects in the
5 state. Thank you for your time.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Thank you, Ms. Brown. Any
8 questions or comments for Ms.
9 Brown? Thank you very much for
10 being here today.

11 Do we have someone from the
12 company that is here? Please come
13 forward. Yes. I want to hear
14 from the company and then we have
15 Ms. Mitchell speak. I have her
16 on my list as well. I know at
17 the last meeting that we had some
18 comments about this project
19 before it was deferred, but I
20 think it's important, especially
21 we have some new Board members,
22 it's important to lay the ground
23 work, so if you can tell us a
24 little bit more about the
25 project.



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1 MR. BENSON:

2 Yes, of course. I would be
3 happy to.

4 Chairman Jones and
5 distinguished members of the
6 Board, thank you for the
7 opportunity to speak with you
8 today. My name is Michael Benson
9 and I'm the Director of
10 Development for commercial
11 energy, the developer and owner
12 of the Bayou Galion Solar
13 project.

14 Commercial Energy is a
15 subsidiary of Canadian Solar,
16 which was found in Ontario in
17 2001. Today, solar is one of the
18 largest manufacturers of solar
19 panels and related technology in
20 the world with over 13,000
21 employees. To date, recurrent
22 energy and solar have developed
23 thousands of megawatts of solar
24 projects in the US and abroad.
25 Bayou Galion Solar Project is 98



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1 megawatts which will power about
2 20,000 homes. It represents a
3 \$98 million capital investment
4 which will create over 300
5 construction jobs and additional
6 \$13 million in property tax
7 revenue without additional to
8 roads, schools or energy
9 services.

10 Before I close my brief
11 remarks, I would like to briefly
12 clarify the record from the Q and
13 A during the past board meeting.
14 Senator Allain, you raised some
15 very valid concerns about
16 decommissioning, and I commend
17 you for looking out of the
18 interest of the citizens of this
19 great state. I want to state for
20 the record that there will be
21 funds set aside in the form of a
22 bond or other financial security
23 for this project to fund the
24 decommissioning and restoration
25 of the land at the end of the



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1 project's life.

2 In closing, this project
3 enjoys very robust support at the
4 local level. Morehouse Parish
5 has been very welcoming and we
6 are proud and immensely grateful
7 to have the support. We are
8 excited to bring our project to
9 Louisiana and kindly ask the
10 esteemed Board to approve our
11 application and allow the parish,
12 police jury and school board to
13 then act on it.

14 Thank you. And I will be
15 happy to address the questions.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Thank you. Mr. Allain.

18 MR. ALLAIN:

19 Yes. Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman. I commend you for
21 making that statement, and I also
22 talked to LDH and verified with
23 them that in the contract item --
24 contract there will be language
25 that says that you must comply



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1 with all state laws, regulations,
2 rules that come down.

3 My problem is that we haven't
4 developed those yet. We are
5 having a hearing on my bill
6 tomorrow, which is the -- which
7 makes the secretary of natural
8 resource look at the comments and
9 come up with a permitting process
10 and rules and regulations as we
11 move forward. That being said,
12 are you willing to make this
13 investment and go forward without
14 even knowing what the rules of
15 the road are going to be.

16 MR. BENSON:

17 I can tell you that if the
18 Board approves this application,
19 we are comfortable moving forward
20 with our project with the rules
21 that are in place.

22 MR. ALLAIN:

23 In full knowledge that the
24 rules have yet to be developed
25 that you may have to live by.



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1 MR. BENSON:

2 Yes. We understand that.

3 MR. ALLAIN:

4 I wanted to make it clear
5 because in that building over
6 there, a lot of times people
7 said, oh, well, we made plans and
8 investments and nobody -- nobody
9 told us you were changing the
10 rules, and, you know, I would
11 recommend that, you know, you
12 participate in the process, which
13 is going to start tomorrow, 8:30
14 in the morning, and I guess it's
15 going to be a fair process. I
16 think everybody needs to be
17 engaged because what we are
18 really to looking to do is
19 protect the land of the
20 Louisiana. Land is timeless. My
21 family has been farming land in
22 this state for over 200 years,
23 and it's -- people come and go,
24 but the land and it's
25 productivity built this state,



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1 and it's important to the state
2 and its residents.

3 That being said, I -- just
4 couple of -- out of my curiosity,
5 where are you -- do you have a
6 MISO interconnect application in
7 place now or are you --

8 MR. BENSON:

9 We have a full agreement with
10 MISO.

11 MR. ALLAIN:

12 You have a full agreement.

13 MR. BENSON:

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. ALLAIN:

16 I understood these things --
17 I mean, there is a lot of them
18 coming one after another, and I
19 understand that if you proceed
20 now, it's up to 24 months before
21 you can actually get one of
22 those. Do you have a purchase
23 power agreement? I assume with
24 Entergy because that they are the
25 company in the area. Is that



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1 something that you have in place
2 also.

3 MR. BENSON:

4 We do.

5 MR. ALLAIN:

6 Okay. Has it -- has that
7 been submitted to the public
8 service.

9 MR. BENSON:

10 It has been submitted but not
11 --

12 MR. ALLAIN:

13 It's been submitted but not
14 approved yet.

15 MR. BENSON:

16 That's correct.

17 MR. ALLAIN:

18 You still have that approval
19 process to go through.

20 MR. BENSON:

21 Yes.

22 MR. ALLAIN:

23 Look, I just -- I want to
24 make sure that y'all fully
25 understand that the state is



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1 going to protect its interest in
2 the land of the state, and if you
3 are willing to move forward with
4 that understanding, I mean, look,
5 I'm a landowner myself, it's -- I
6 will never tell you I don't
7 believe that anybody here owns
8 land has the right to lease it,
9 for soybeans or sugarcane or corn
10 or solar, if they wish to, but it
11 has to be some minimum
12 protection for the State of
13 Louisiana. We've seen way too
14 many instances with orphans --
15 orphan wells in the past that end
16 up becoming war in the state
17 because there is nobody left to
18 process. We cannot afford that
19 to happen with 800 to 1000 acre
20 farms, you understand. I'm not
21 against solar, I'm really not,
22 but I am against us -- I am for
23 the State of Louisiana getting it
24 right from the beginning and not
25 argue about it into the future.

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1 MR. BENSON:

2 I agree with you.

3 MR. ALLAIN:

4 And have you talked -- have
5 you talked to your financiers
6 about the added burden, I guess,
7 that this may or may not create.

8 MR. BENSON:

9 Yes.

10 MR. ALLAIN:

11 I see you are nodding there
12 also.

13 MR. BENSON:

14 No, sir. I'm here to assist
15 him with any questions.

16 MR. ALLAIN:

17 All right. That being said,
18 I understand you are aware my
19 bill starts tomorrow where we
20 move forward. You are aware of
21 the house concurrent resolution
22 at speaker base.

23 MR. BENSON:

24 Yes.

25 MR. ALLAIN:



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1 I think Ms. Mitchell is going
2 to explain that next. All right.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Thank you, Mr. Allain.

5 MR. ALLAIN:

6 I'll reserve the remainder of
7 my time.

8 MR. JONES:

9 Mr. Allain, you have as much
10 time as you need. Thank you very
11 much.

12 Any other questions or
13 comments for Mr. Benson? Thank
14 you very much. Mr. Leonard, do
15 you have something you want to
16 say?

17 MR. LEONARD:

18 No, sir. Jimmy Leonard with
19 Advantage Consulting. I was
20 going to be up here to assist if
21 he had any --

22 MR. JONES:

23 Thank you very much. Ms.
24 Mitchell. Next on the list.

25 MS. MITCHELL:



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1 Good morning, members. Mandi
2 Mitchell, Assistant Secretary,
3 Louisiana Economic Development,
4 and I have been asked just to
5 share some background on a couple
6 of things that occurred during
7 the legislative session relevant
8 to solar projects, which some of
9 them do come before this Board.

10 So, during the legislative
11 session, Speaker Schexnayder
12 passed a resolution which urges
13 and request LED and this Board to
14 suspend ITEP and any and all
15 other incentives for utility
16 scale solar projects through 30
17 days after the 2022 session. The
18 resolution has some technical
19 conflicts within the body of the
20 resolution because it does
21 mention 2021, which was part of a
22 discussion we had was after this
23 session, but the speaker's intent
24 in his request to this Board is
25 through 2022.



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1 After speaking to the speaker
2 and to some parties directly
3 familiar with the source of this
4 issue, which some of them are
5 here today, the resolution was
6 filed in response to concerns
7 expressed by the farming
8 community stemming from farmers
9 being concerned about being
10 unable to compete with solar
11 companies seeking to lease land
12 with the premise being that it is
13 because of at least in part of
14 ITEP and other incentives that
15 solar companies can pay much
16 higher lease rates per acre, so
17 Speaker Schexnayder's end goal
18 was to slow down those utility
19 scale farmer investments, give it
20 some time so as to observe
21 whether or not those projects
22 would move forward with or
23 without any subsidies or any
24 incentives.

25 In addition, it has already



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1 been discussed today by Senator
2 Allain not relevant to the Board
3 here today because this Board and
4 LED, we are not regulators, but
5 just for situational awareness
6 Senator Allain passed SB 185
7 which has directed the Department
8 of Natural Resources to move
9 forward with researching the
10 matter and developing regulations
11 to oversee utility scale solar
12 projects with the particular goal
13 in mind to ensure that there are
14 provisions in place so that those
15 solar projects when completed
16 will restore the land and
17 property to its original status,
18 so decommissioning bond has been
19 mentioned, for example, and Bayou
20 Galion -- Bayou Galion mentioned
21 and committed to have a
22 decommission bond in place.

23 Lastly pertaining to solar
24 utilities scale solar projects
25 from this session, Senator Mizel



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1 directed Department of Natural
2 Resources in partnership with the
3 Department of Agriculture to hold
4 a public hearing to allow
5 impacted stakeholders to testify
6 their issues and concerns with
7 utility scale solar farms. So
8 that's are the items relevant to
9 the utilities scale solar just
10 for your information.

11 Regarding today's agenda, of
12 critical importance to note is
13 that house concurrent resolution
14 40, the request, it is a request,
15 it doesn't direct the Board to
16 take any particular action, but
17 it is an urge and request, but
18 that request is applicable to
19 projects with advance
20 notifications filed on or after
21 July 1st, 2021, so it's not
22 relevant to any projects on
23 today's agenda, and, in fact,
24 there are two solar projects on
25 today's ITEP agenda both of which



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1 had advance notifications filed
2 prior to -- obviously prior to
3 July 1st. Entergy has a renewal
4 request for a project in New
5 Orleans located on Chef Menteur
6 Highway. It's a \$6 million
7 investment. No new jobs for that
8 project, but it is important to
9 note that Entergy has invested in
10 sustainable initiatives, which is
11 something that we strongly
12 support this administration and
13 LED does as well, and then the
14 project before you at this
15 moment, recurrent energy, has a
16 request for the solar project in
17 Morehouse Parish, and I wanted to
18 share with you a few points about
19 that project and LED's due
20 diligence. There is local
21 support for that project. LED
22 also received a letter of support
23 from Senator Katrina Jackson for
24 that project, which we have and
25 we share that with the Board

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1 members, and this is a \$99
2 million investment with three new
3 jobs and about 150 construction
4 jobs with the \$10 million payroll
5 associated with the construction.
6 Importantly from the Morehouse
7 Parish local officials is that
8 the project will generate about
9 \$3.3 million in revenue for them
10 during the period of the
11 abatement revenue that they would
12 not have otherwise received and
13 collected, which drives their
14 support for the project.

15 Just a couple of other
16 things. From LED's perspective
17 we do encourage the Board to
18 evaluate and analyze each ITEP
19 project on a case by case basis
20 given all of the variables and
21 factors presented before you to
22 consider. So just wanted to
23 share that HCR 40 was passed
24 during the legislative session
25 and it is applicable to projects



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1 with advanced notifications filed
2 on or after July 1, 2021. And
3 specifically pertaining to Bayou
4 Galion Solar Project. LED has
5 the following conclusions for
6 your consideration. It allows
7 the local voice if you pass it
8 today. If you approve it, the
9 locals then have to have their
10 deliberations and notify the
11 Board within that 60 day window.
12 We have been advised that it's
13 supported by the local economic
14 development group as well as
15 local officials. The company has
16 committed on the record to
17 decommissioning. We are looking
18 at in a rural parish, which in
19 other parts of the country, by
20 the way, rural communities are
21 utilizing solar farms as an
22 economic development
23 diversification strategy, so it
24 is something to consider. It
25 helps diversify the local economy

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1 and create resilience in those
2 communities, but more importantly
3 if you approve today the locals
4 will have their discussions and
5 deliberations and make that final
6 determination.

7 So those are just some
8 comments that Secretary Pierson
9 asked that I make sure and share
10 with the group. We wanted you to
11 have visibility and situational
12 awareness about HCR 40, senate
13 bill 185 and SR 182, and there
14 are some hearings that will begin
15 tomorrow. LED is going to stay
16 in close coordination with the
17 Department of Natural Resources
18 as as they proceed with the
19 regulations and we'll make sure
20 and inform the Board if any of
21 those regs would impact those
22 companies accessing ITEP or any
23 other incentive programs.

24 MR. JONES:

25 Thank you, Ms. Mitchell. Any



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1 questions or comments for Ms.
2 Mitchell?

3 MR. ALLAIN:

4 I do. Comment more than
5 anything. I hate to disagree
6 with Ms. Mitchell, but I have
7 before.

8 Keep in mind that the HCR 40,
9 which was passed by the speaker,
10 particularly excluded projects
11 that were under the jurisdiction
12 of the Louisiana Public Service
13 Commission in the City of New
14 Orleans because the presumption
15 is that the regulators wouldn't
16 allow utilities to keep the
17 money, it would pass it on to
18 rate payors, so we -- they
19 particularly excluded that from
20 the -- from the request, and it
21 was an urgent request. It has no
22 -- no effective law. The
23 speaker, in talking to him,
24 wanted to respect the
25 jurisdiction of this body as well



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1 as hoping that this body would
2 respect the jurisdiction of what
3 is to come from the legislature.
4 So he did make it an urgent
5 request. But, so, this is for --
6 for Board's consideration, the
7 first ITEP project, the first
8 solar ITEP project before you for
9 approval. Now, I don't want -- I
10 want you to understand that if we
11 pass this and we set a precedent
12 today that doesn't necessarily
13 mean that every ITEP project
14 coming before you would
15 necessarily get an automatic
16 checkmark. There would be looked
17 at and approved one at a time on
18 their merit. Look, in some of
19 the merits that we have to look
20 at is there necessity for the
21 solar farms. Are there lines
22 going there. Do they have
23 capacity on those lines to
24 transmit the electricity. Are
25 they -- what type of inspections

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1 need to be done. There is a
2 whole plethora just besides the
3 decommissioning of what these
4 things -- I think the state needs
5 to be involved with and what goes
6 forward, so this is the first
7 ITEP you do realize that in the
8 HCR that was -- that did exclude
9 those of the public service
10 commission, correct?

11 MS. MITCHELL:

12 Yes. I don't think we
13 disagree at all. I think
14 everybody that you --

15 MR. ALLAIN:

16 Well, you said there were two
17 projects today. You were
18 insinuating -- you were
19 insinuating that both projects
20 were the same and one was
21 particularly excluded from the
22 house concurrent resolution that
23 was passed.

24 MS. MITCHELL:

25 Yes. So, I did not mean to



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1 insinuate that and I wanted the
2 Board to be completely aware of
3 any and all solar related
4 projects on today's agenda.

5 MR. ALLAIN:

6 Right. One that HCR applied
7 to and one it did not.

8 MS. MITCHELL:

9 Yes. Yes.

10 MR. ALLAIN:

11 And, listen, I know you gave
12 some explanation that the farming
13 community had somewhat concerns
14 and that was the reason for the
15 HCR. I talked to the speaker at
16 length when he filed his HCR and
17 a lot of his concerns were the
18 same ones that I have. We don't
19 want to start incentivizing and
20 improving projects that later we
21 have -- that we haven't finished
22 going through the regulatory
23 process of how we are going to
24 commission these things in the
25 future, and in all fairness in



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1 the investors and the
2 communities, we don't want to be
3 the bad guys for, oh, you passed
4 this so you killed projects. No.
5 We passing rules and regulations
6 into the future because we want
7 to protect the State of
8 Louisiana, it's property, its
9 citizens and those are the things
10 that we want to consider, so I'm
11 trying to -- as he was, was
12 hoping to slow this thing down
13 until all of the investors knew
14 what the rules of the road were
15 going to be, and I think that was
16 his goal as well as mine.

17 MR. JONES:

18 Thank you, Mr. Allain.

19 MS. MITCHELL:

20 Yes, sir. Any other
21 questions. Mr. Moller.

22 MR. MOLLER:

23 Yeah. I just want to clarify
24 the tax revenue we are talking
25 about. We are talking about a



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1 thousand acres, right, that is
2 currently formulating?

3 MS. MITCHELL:

4 Yes. In Morehouse Parish
5 there is about 265,000 of acres
6 designated as agriculture, and of
7 that there is about 205,000 that
8 is actively being formed leaving
9 about of 60,000 acres available.
10 This project would be utilizing
11 1,000 acres.

12 MR. MOLLER:

13 So equal to one half of one
14 percent of the farm land that is
15 actually in production. And how
16 much property tax is generated by
17 1,000 acres of farm land right
18 now?

19 MS. MITCHELL:

20 I am not sure. I don't have
21 that information. I'm going off
22 of memory from some data pulled
23 together by the Morehouse
24 Economic Development Commission.
25 About 50,000 being collected



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1 currently today in property tax
2 from ag in that parish, and this
3 project would result in an
4 additional about \$300,000 in
5 property taxes per year, and it
6 looks like Mr. Jimmy has some
7 information, so I can -- so
8 currently the property is
9 producing about \$3,900 in
10 property taxes.

11 MR. MOLLER:

12 So we would be going from
13 \$3,900 year in property tax
14 revenue. Even with the tax
15 exemption it would be over
16 \$300,000 a year.

17 MS. MITCHELL:

18 Yes.

19 MR. MOLLER:

20 And then how much -- you said
21 how much there are three
22 permanent jobs associated with
23 this?

24 MS. MITCHELL:

25 Yes, sir. And about \$59,000



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1 per year in salary for each of
2 those jobs.

3 MR. MOLLER:

4 What's the median wage in
5 Morehouse Parish?

6 MS. MITCHELL:

7 I think the median is 34, if
8 I'm not mistaken.

9 MR. MOLLER:

10 So almost twice the median
11 salary is what these jobs. What
12 does \$300,000 a year buy in
13 Morehouse Parish.

14 MS. MITCHELL:

15 Well, I can't speak for the
16 parish, but I'm certain -- I'm
17 certain that -- so part of what
18 you are getting to is what we try
19 to make sure folks know about
20 economic development and is that
21 it is about growing jobs but also
22 about growing the tax base, which
23 is why other parts of the country
24 you see colocation of solar farms
25 with ag being done in creative



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1 projects and that in those
2 instances, and so you have to
3 look at both the jobs and the tax
4 base, so, yes, I have been told
5 that three jobs paying about
6 \$59,000 means a lot for the
7 community of Morehouse Parish
8 because that would then result in
9 roughly ten additional indirect
10 jobs. Regarding the additional
11 \$294,000 in taxes, I'm certain
12 the local officials will put that
13 to good use with perhaps some
14 infrastructure upgrades, you name
15 it. I don't have the specifics,
16 but that's the reason the locals
17 in that community would like to
18 have the opportunity to have a
19 discussion on the project and
20 have that vote at the local
21 level, which was part of the
22 spirit of the ITEP reform as
23 well.

24 MR. MOLLER:

25 At the appropriate time I



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1 would make a motion to approve.

2 MR. JONES:

3 Thank you.

4 MR. ALLAIN:

5 And I further comment.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Mr. Allain.

8 MR. ALLAIN:

9 I appreciate the irony of Mr.
10 Moller promoting an ITEP project
11 that only has three employees
12 associated with it, but that
13 being said, I think you hit upon
14 the local motivation that there
15 is -- there is going to be money
16 when you move for the local
17 governments when you move from ag
18 use value to something different.
19 I appreciate that. You also
20 taking land out of -- out of ag
21 use. Look, ag use is well
22 defined in every state in this
23 nation, and if you charge -- and
24 if you charge anything but ag use
25 value on ag land, you would



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1 either, No. 1, drive farmers out
2 of business or, No. 2, sky rocket
3 the cost of food in this country.
4 There is no other alternative.
5 This country has a long policy of
6 going back to the great
7 depression of keeping -- of doing
8 everything it can to keep the
9 cost of food as low as it can for
10 its citizens, and ag use value is
11 one of those things. The irony
12 is is that these solar farms are
13 going to displace agriculture.
14 These solar farms are going to be
15 a huge incentive for the local
16 governments and that's why they
17 are going to push them very hard,
18 and we have to make sense and
19 good judgments of how we -- how
20 we do that into the future.

21 I think you are going to hear
22 from some ag people here today,
23 and I will preface it with it's
24 one percent of ag land except
25 when it's your land that the

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1 landlord is taking to and your
2 livelihood that the landlord is
3 taking to put it into a solar
4 farm and we keep taking land out
5 of -- urban strawl (ph) has taken
6 hundreds of thousands of acres
7 out of the State of Louisiana
8 from agriculture, and this is
9 just another example where it's
10 going to be. Sure it's going to
11 be profitable for the local
12 government, but there is more to
13 be said for the use of land in
14 the State of Louisiana than just
15 making money. And those are my
16 comments. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18 MR. JONES:

19 Thank you, Mr. Allain. Any
20 other questions or comments for
21 Ms. Mitchell? All right. Thank
22 you, Ms. Mitchell.

23 MS. MITCHELL:

24 Thank you.

25 MR. JONES:



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1 We don't have a motion yet.
2 Mr. Moller would like to make
3 that motion. Can I go ahead and
4 get me a second. Mr. Wilson for
5 the second. We have a motion and
6 second.

7 Now we will hear the
8 comments. Mr. Nates (ph) from
9 Farm Bureau.

10 Mr. Nates, state your name
11 and your position for the record,
12 please.

13 MR. NATES:

14 Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
15 members of the Board, I'm Joe
16 Nates, Louisiana Farm Bureau
17 Federation. I see some familiar
18 faces here this morning. Good
19 morning to all of y'all.

20 I was told this morning that
21 this measure is going to be
22 approved today regardless of what
23 I say, regardless of anybody else
24 says, regardless with any
25 expression of the legislature on



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1 this matter. That being said, we
2 still felt that Farm Bureau did,
3 we need to go on the record
4 saying this is a bad precedent
5 being set in advance of any rules
6 that have been put in place
7 regarding this.

8 Our farmers past resolution
9 prior to the session asking to
10 look into the use of the ITEP
11 program by the solar industry,
12 not to stop anything with the
13 solar industry but just to look
14 at the use of the ITEP program.
15 As Senator Allain was saying
16 earlier, we have 90 percent of
17 our farmers are tenant farmers so
18 this one percent of the land was
19 taken out from under the feet of
20 those 90 percent of those
21 farmers, we don't have a place to
22 farm. That's a concern. We
23 don't think that the ITEP program
24 should be used by solar because
25 they don't manufacture, and just



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1 for frame of reference, the first
2 line of eligibility of the LED
3 section for ITEP businesses must
4 be classified as manufacturer or
5 related to the manufacturing
6 project in order to receive the
7 benefits of the ITEP program by
8 ITEP is only available for
9 activities related to
10 manufacturers. Well, our farmers
11 argue that solar is not
12 manufactured, it is captured and
13 then it's transferred, so if I
14 were to walk over to the capital
15 lake and capture a fish and walk
16 it over to Third Street and
17 transfer it to the chef at the
18 Little Village, did I manufacture
19 that fish? No, I did not, and
20 there is no difference here with
21 the solar industry. We are not
22 against the solar industry.
23 Farmers have been using the sun
24 since day one. We still do. We
25 grow all our crops, all of our



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1 crops. So we are not against
2 solar at all, we just want to
3 know why the ITEP program needs
4 to be used by the solar industry.
5 As Senator Allain said earlier,
6 it creates an unfair advantage to
7 our farmers who are leasing the
8 land. They don't have access to
9 an ITEP program. They don't have
10 access to the high dollars that
11 the solar industry has. They are
12 not complaining about that
13 necessarily, they are interested
14 in looking at the use of the ITEP
15 program. And the question I
16 have, we have sitting in the back
17 of the room in regard to
18 Morehouse Parish, why is it
19 financially critical for
20 Morehouse to use the ITEP program
21 when it's said that it was going
22 to be critical for West Baton
23 Rouge, it was said that it was
24 going to be critical for Pointe
25 Coupee that both of those

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1 parishes move forward without the
2 -- without the use of ITEP at
3 this point, and we would say that
4 we should be doing the same with
5 Morehouse Parish. I will be happy
6 to answer any questions.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Questions for Mr. Nates?

9 Appreciate you being here.

10 MR. NATES:

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. JONES:

13 I have a card for Mr. Rodney
14 Wood.

15 MR. WOOD:

16 I will have to say before I
17 take a seat, the last 28 years or
18 any other similar seat at the
19 capitol. Good morning to all of
20 you. This feels kind of strange,
21 honestly. Real strange.

22 This is not just a matter of
23 public policy for me, it's not
24 just a matter of economics, this
25 is a deeply personal matter to



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1 me, and so I have come here this
2 morning. I was at that community
3 meeting last week for my first
4 time in Washington Parish, I
5 don't do that kind of thing, to
6 appeal to those who are the
7 decision makers. I would ask you
8 to supplement my comments. You
9 can express it better than I can
10 say it, do it from your own heart
11 and your own mind. I'm asking
12 that favor of you.

13 Last week we have a fellow
14 pushing me to make the decision
15 as I was listening to y'all talk
16 just now, he said you just keep
17 asking too many questions, and I
18 said, well, if I don't ask the
19 right questions, I'm going to end
20 up making the wrong decision,
21 financial decision on a project.
22 I will tell you about it just a
23 second back home. We ended up
24 not doing business because I
25 asked too many questions. I have



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1 got other things that bother me
2 about this project, I'm going to
3 ask questions. I went to the
4 community meeting last week and I
5 heard a lot of people in that
6 room, people like my family that
7 have been in that Parish for a
8 long time asking questions, and
9 there weren't answers, and some
10 of the answers that were given
11 were ones that none of you
12 Louisianans would want to accept,
13 not one of you, I promise you.

14 My earliest forebearers came
15 in the western part of Washington
16 Parish in the late 1700s. We
17 started clearing out the land,
18 establish pastures and they added
19 to the beauty of the land. They
20 added to it. It became even more
21 beautiful, and they began to hand
22 it down. In 1850 my third great
23 grandfather built a house for his
24 son, David Magee, as he was
25 getting married. I own that



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1 house. Some of you kind of do a
2 double take when I say my wife
3 and I because you see a clergy.
4 I'm an Anglican priest. Although
5 some catholic priests are now
6 married. My wife and I are now
7 involved in project of restoring
8 the old house 170 years old. But
9 I want you to know that even if
10 that were not the case, Mr.
11 Chairman and other members, even
12 if we were not restoring that
13 house and even if I did not own
14 farmland in the State of
15 Louisiana, I will be no less
16 passionate about passing on the
17 beauty of our state to the
18 generations to come that we
19 received. Not one bit less. And
20 I pray the same for you.

21 I find myself asking
22 questions why in this beautiful
23 farmland. Why here? Oh, I get it,
24 I understand Morehouse Parish
25 really is in great economic need,



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1 and so is Washington Parish. I
2 understand that. And there will
3 be other parishes that are in
4 great economic need, and there
5 will be farmers, I have heard the
6 numbers of what they will make
7 per year, my land sakes, that
8 will be hard for anybody to walk
9 away from, wouldn't it.
10 Honestly. Unless you had some
11 really deep convictions about a
12 higher value, something that when
13 you leave this world, the few
14 people here may attend your
15 funeral, you are going to pass on
16 a legacy and you are going to
17 either left behind beauty and all
18 of the things associated with
19 beauty or you did not. I'm going
20 to say this three times and say
21 it the second time right here
22 whatever you do wait. I find
23 that when people without being
24 pushed to make a decision now,
25 especially by someone who is in a

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1 position to make a lot of money,
2 and they can appeal to me or my
3 friends that we can make some
4 money. Maybe what feels to us
5 like a lot of money. When that
6 push goes on, I always notice
7 something wrong. Always. I'm
8 pleading with you. Listen to the
9 resolution that was made by those
10 who represent the people of the
11 State of Louisiana. You guys
12 made that resolution. Let's
13 wait. Let's be sure that we know
14 matters pertaining to economics.
15 Matters to pertaining to
16 environment. The people have
17 spoken through the
18 representatives. Wait. But
19 somebody, I hear it, has said,
20 no. No. No. Don't wait. We
21 need to do this now. We are going
22 to do it with a thousand acres.
23 Now, come on, do I need to use
24 words to explain what that's
25 about. Really. It would be a



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1 waste of your time because you
2 already know. I find myself
3 asking questions like why don't
4 we do this on abandoned oil
5 wells. Why don't we do it on
6 existing structures. I mean,
7 just questions that you may have
8 good answers to.

9 As I think about our country,
10 America the Beautiful, I used to
11 step outside of my elementary
12 school in Franklinton, Louisiana
13 where I learned to sing that song
14 and there it was, America the
15 Beautiful, and no matter how far
16 I rode my horse, I could see
17 America the Beautiful. Recently
18 I drove my old pickup past the
19 experience station. It's been a
20 little white back, and I said,
21 what in the world is that. Soon
22 I found out. I looked on the
23 other side of the road of what is
24 arguably the most beautiful
25 pasture in the State of



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1 Louisiana. So we're going to do
2 that to this. Somebody in the
3 meeting recommended, well, put
4 bamboo all up and down the side
5 of the road so you won't see
6 these things. Bamboo? That's
7 what I'm going to see in the late
8 afternoon, early evening when I
9 start to head back from Baton
10 Rouge or my grandchildren or my
11 great grandchildren are out there
12 in that once beautiful land. My
13 word throughout my -- I will be
14 71 this year. I see some smiling
15 that may be near my age. Through
16 the course of my life, my work
17 has taken me all over the state.
18 I love driving through the
19 beautiful farmlands of it in
20 northeast, Louisiana, over on the
21 west side. I have been through
22 all of them. When I was a young
23 man, I was not -- I wasn't a
24 priest, I was involved in
25 business. I have seen it all. To

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1 this day, I love driving past it.
2 Please, please withdraw that
3 motion. Please. Please say
4 let's just wait. Let's do what
5 the people's representatives have
6 asked for. Let's just give it
7 this year. What is to be lost.
8 What is really to be lost
9 economically, not much, but if
10 you move too quickly you may lose
11 everything that our forebearers
12 gave us. In the course of my
13 life I have been in England
14 twice. Separated by about 20
15 years, and I watch long term
16 thinking over there and I love to
17 go back. I have been there many,
18 many, many times and my work has
19 taken me through England and to
20 other places. My friends from
21 England came here to visit me, my
22 family, I could take them out to
23 see beauty. Are you hearing me?
24 We don't know the economic
25 environmental impact of what you

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1 are considering, but we do know
2 the psychological impact. We do
3 know the social impact, and we do
4 know the cultural impact. We all
5 know that. It is potentially
6 devastating. So all I'm asking
7 is supplement my comments, will
8 you. All of you. Wait. Just
9 wait. Please. Thank you.

10 MR. JONES:

11 Thank you, Mr. Wood. Any
12 comments or questions for Mr.
13 Wood? Thank you, sir.

14 MR. WOOD:

15 Thank you. I appreciate all
16 of you.

17 MR. JONES:

18 We have a card from Mr. Heath
19 Morris.

20 MR. MORRIS:

21 Good afternoon.

22 MR. JONES:

23 Good afternoon, sir.

24 MR. MORRIS:

25 My name is Heath Morris. I



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1 am a sugar cane farmer in West
2 Baton Rouge Parish. I am also a
3 landowner where we own about 40
4 percent of what we farm total, so
5 60 percent of my farm I am a
6 tenant farmer. We own land about
7 a mile away from the current
8 solar project that was built and
9 constructed to the one that I'm
10 sure a lot of you have passed and
11 seen. In my opinion, it was a
12 complete failure for the way that
13 it looks and it borders other
14 lands. I became very involved on
15 a parish level as far as ITEP
16 because it was my understanding
17 that the current project that is
18 coming West Baton Rouge now, I
19 know today we are talking about
20 Morehouse Parish, I'm going to
21 give you a -- with all due
22 respect to Morehouse Parish, I do
23 think we are setting a bad
24 precedent today if we do vote on
25 this, but the reason that I got

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1 involved and was proactive
2 against the ITEP was because from
3 what I was understanding that
4 there are three landowners that
5 this project in West Baton Rouge
6 Parish was going to cross, go
7 across three separate landowners.
8 There were also three separate
9 leases dictating reclamation,
10 cleaning it up, lease values, and
11 I scratch my head. I said, wait
12 -- I'm also a contractor, too.
13 So I scratch my head and I said,
14 wait a minute, if I'm building a
15 house, the Louisiana State
16 Licensing Board of Contractors
17 dictates to me how I have to
18 build a house, and then the
19 parish also dictates to me the
20 code in which I have to follow
21 through that parish to build that
22 house, but for these solar
23 projects, there seems to be
24 nothing, and so I said, well,
25 wait, we've got ITEP now. They

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1 are asking for ITEP, and in south
2 Louisiana we have, in my opinion,
3 a higher land, ag land use value
4 be it sugarcane. Sugarcane is at
5 200 year old industry that we
6 can't just wipe out and replace
7 very quickly, so we're granting a
8 company to come in and granting
9 them an ITEP that is replacing
10 one industry with another, but
11 we're making jobs, but what are
12 we losing on the back end. So I
13 have been fortunate enough to
14 meet a lot of people, talk to a
15 lot of people regarding this and
16 HR 40, and I'm very thankful that
17 it was able to pass and thankful
18 for Senator Allain's work as
19 well, but I think we do need to
20 step away and push away from the
21 table and say, hey, look, let's
22 -- let's get some guidelines in
23 place. Let's -- let's put some
24 rules in place for an industry
25 that is coming in. And am I

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1 against solar, absolutely not.
2 Absolutely not. I'm against it
3 with no regulations. I'm against
4 it with no rules. I'm against it
5 -- I'm against giving money to an
6 industry to replace another.
7 That's what I'm against as a
8 farmer. I understand I could
9 lose land to a solar farmer.
10 That is the landowners right to
11 do that. I understand. Knowing
12 that I really cannot compete with
13 what they can pay a landowner, I
14 understand that, but giving a
15 huge essentially subsidy to that
16 energy from ITEP and industry
17 that is also getting a huge
18 federal subsidy as well, it's --
19 it leaves -- it leaves us
20 wondering, you know, what's next
21 for our industry. We made a big
22 investment here, all of the
23 farmers have, and, you know, we
24 work really hard to push our
25 industry, and, you know, it's my

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1 understanding that the new house
2 bill, correct me if I'm wrong, is
3 are we asking to stop no ITEP
4 until 2022. I just hope that
5 today that we don't establish a
6 wrong precedent or a precedent
7 regardless, and, you know, maybe
8 just say let's stop and get the
9 rules in place, so that's all I
10 have to say.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Thank you, Mr. Morris. Any
13 comments or questions for Mr.
14 Morris? Mr. Moller.

15 MR. MOLLER:

16 I just want to clarify a
17 couple of things and I appreciate
18 the concern and I have listened
19 to all of the testimony, but to
20 the idea that this is being
21 rushed, we have had this project
22 on our last agenda and we delayed
23 it, and I voted to delay it to
24 give the legislature time to act,
25 and I thought that was an



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1 appropriate thing at the time,
2 and the legislature did act, and
3 the legislature spoke through HCR
4 40 and HCR 40 deliberately makes
5 this prospective so it does not
6 apply to this case, so I have to
7 assume that the people, it's
8 representatives knew what they
9 were doing when they made that
10 perspective. And, you know, I
11 don't think -- and, again, so I
12 think this is prospective, and I
13 also think at some point we need
14 to respect the landowners. You
15 know, from everything that I have
16 heard is, you know, there is a
17 willing landowner who wants to --
18 who wants to lease his property
19 for this. The citizens of
20 Morehouse Parish appear to be in
21 favor of this, and if they are
22 not in favor of this, if they
23 change their mind, they still
24 have the opportunity to reject
25 this when it comes to that. All

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1 we are saying if we approve this
2 is we send it back to the locals
3 to make that decision, so it
4 seems to me if this is within the
5 rule we have given the
6 legislature time to speak on
7 this, I really don't understand
8 what the controversy is. And as
9 far as setting the precedent, I
10 think we approved the solar
11 project already on the renewals,
12 so we have already set precedent
13 that we approve ITEP for solar
14 projects. We are not doing
15 anything new with this particular
16 project. You know, the only
17 difference is, and I understand
18 that that Entergy and municipal
19 power was written out of that
20 resolution, so -- but, to me, I
21 don't know that seems like a
22 distinction without a difference,
23 so I will restate my motion, but
24 I just thought we should clarify
25 that the resolution which was

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1 thoroughly debated in two
2 chambers and two committees does
3 not speak to this because it's
4 prospective.

5 MR. JONES:

6 Thank you, Mr. Moller. I have
7 a question and I'm not sure --
8 Mr. Morris, you can return to
9 your seat. Thank you very much.
10 Unless there are other questions
11 for Mr. Morris. I apologize.

12 I have a question for staff
13 and I'm not sure who specifically
14 to address this question to, but
15 I would like some further comment
16 on the issue of precedent and the
17 issue of whether solar is a
18 manufacturing or not, and I would
19 like to make sure that we are all
20 on one mind as to how those rules
21 work and how they don't because
22 there's been some questions
23 raised about that in this meeting
24 and I want the record to be
25 clear. So let's answer the



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1 second one first.

2 Is solar manufacturing -- on
3 what do we base that?

4 MS. CHENG:

5 I think previously other
6 energy manufacturers have been
7 approved and allowed by this
8 Board, so that's how solar has
9 been treated because they are
10 also a manufacturer.

11 MR. JONES:

12 So it's a matter because they
13 manufacture electricity.

14 MS. CHENG:

15 Correct.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Is there a code or anything
18 for solar?

19 MS. CHENG:

20 Not to my knowledge.

21 MR. JONES:

22 So simply because the Board
23 has approved solar in the past
24 that's the basis for the --

25 MS. CHENG:



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1 Other electricity
2 manufacturing as well. Other
3 forms of electricity
4 manufacturing.

5 MR. JONES:

6 Okay. Ms. Bourgeois, do you
7 want to speak to the issue of
8 precedent or do you want to speak
9 to the issue of solar as
10 manufacturing.

11 MR. BOURGEOIS:

12 Tam Bourgeois, executive
13 counsel for LED and the Board.
14 First to the point of
15 manufacturing, you know, that is
16 as we are aware, there is a
17 definition of manufacturing of
18 both constitution and the rules,
19 and it's the working of raw
20 materials into where it's
21 suitable for use which gives
22 shapes, quality, combination to
23 matter through an artificial
24 process, and so I think the idea
25 behind the Board approving solar



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1 energy and other electricity
2 manufacturing processes in the
3 past is that you are taking one
4 form of energy and changing it
5 and putting it out to the string
6 of commerce, which is also
7 important to the definition of
8 manufacturing. So this company
9 takes solar energy, they transfer
10 it to electricity and then
11 another company then puts it in
12 the string of commerce to then go
13 out to the public. So that
14 addresses the manufacturing.

15 We are aware of several -- I
16 don't have the numbers in front
17 of me. I can't give you the
18 names, per se, but both under
19 pre-executive order and post
20 executive order, this Board has
21 approved solar manufacturing
22 projects. I know at least two,
23 but I think it's a handful. I
24 mean, I wouldn't say over ten,
25 but somewhere between two and



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1 ten.

2 MR. JONES:

3 Now, the issue of everybody
4 seems to be concerned about
5 precedent and whether this
6 decision today will serve as
7 precedent. Educated us on this
8 issue.

9 MS. BOURGEOIS:

10 Well, I think every decision
11 you make should stand on its own.
12 However, there are several
13 instances now where the Board has
14 approved projects for solar
15 manufacturing, so in that sense
16 there is, you know, quote,
17 unquote, "precedent" as far as
18 terms between, you know, real
19 life precedent and legal
20 precedent, but, you know, we'll
21 note that the -- as far as the
22 law is concerned, the Board's
23 decision is, you know, respected
24 on the law as long as it's not
25 arbitrary and capricious.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 I'm trying not to wear my
3 lawyer hat. I'm really trying.

4 MS. BOURGEOIS:

5 And I'm trying not to make
6 you.

7 MR. JONES:

8 And it's not easy, but I
9 think the issue becomes -- and I
10 think what's important for this
11 Board to know is that every case
12 is a case by case decision, and
13 the issue that the Board has to
14 face is not being -- is avoid
15 being arbitrary and capricious.
16 If you approved today's solar
17 farm, it does not mean you
18 approve tomorrow's solar farm if
19 there is a difference, if there
20 is a substantive difference
21 between that farm and in that
22 situation and this farm in this
23 situation, so I don't want --
24 because I want to hear people
25 come from Washington Parish



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1 worried about Morehouse Parish, I
2 understand their concern, but I
3 also want the Board and the
4 public to understand that if a
5 case can be made that another
6 situation is different from this
7 situation, we are not bound to
8 make the same -- not bound to the
9 same result, so the arbitrariness
10 and capriciousness is, I believe,
11 the issue.

12 So, from that perspective, we
13 do look at each case on a case by
14 case basis, so I don't want
15 people to walk out of this
16 meeting and say that all solar
17 farms -- just as Mr. Benson said
18 earlier, not all solar farms are
19 going to be approved. May or may
20 not. I don't know. All depends
21 on what the facts and situation
22 are.

23 Am I too far field, Ms.
24 Bourgeois?

25 MS. BOURGEOIS:



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1 No, sir. You are right on
2 point.

3 MR. JONES:

4 Thank you. Any other
5 questions --

6 MR. ALLAIN:

7 Quick comment on what you
8 just said.

9 MR. JONES:

10 Absolutely.

11 MR. ALLAIN:

12 So, a lot of these previous
13 approvals came about before there
14 was a debate that started, and,
15 you know, I want to try to make a
16 distinction as we -- as we go
17 through hearing and as we debate
18 this thoroughly with the
19 administration and the rules and
20 regulations that come forward,
21 things may change, you know, and
22 I want to make a distinction that
23 the ones that were approved
24 before were before we really sat
25 down and debated the facts of --



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1 and the possible ramifications of
2 what we are doing with these
3 solar farms, so I just want the
4 Board to understand that if we
5 come up with a set of rules and
6 regulations and the public outcry
7 that is -- that is different from
8 the approvals that we gave before
9 because we didn't have those --
10 when we did those approvals, we
11 just all said, oh, good, solar
12 farms, let's try. But, really,
13 as with everything, with every
14 bill that goes through the
15 capitol, they come to the table,
16 they are debated, the pros and
17 the cons, and, look, this is not
18 to body to debate this. We're
19 fixing to get together the body
20 to debate that.

21 The only reason I think was
22 the for the request for the delay
23 was to give those bodies a chance
24 to weigh in on future decisions
25 what us it may have -- it may



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1 change your mind about what we
2 approve and don't approve. So if
3 we are moving forward, now I want
4 -- I want everyone to understand
5 that what we do in the debates
6 that we have should weigh heavily
7 on our decisions in the future.

8 MR. JONES:

9 Any questions or comments?

10 We have a motion. We have a
11 second. Any further comments
12 from the Board.

13 MR. NATES:

14 Can I add a little bit to my
15 comment before you close, please.
16 Mr. Chairman, members of the
17 Board, Joe Nates again.

18 Mr. Allain was saying that --
19 about the legislature. We are
20 talking about the precedent that
21 were set -- we set a precedents
22 of ignoring the will of the
23 legislature. I just want to make
24 that clear for the record. That's
25 the precedent we are talking



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1 about setting now. It does apply
2 to Washington and other parishes
3 because if that thinking of
4 ignoring the will of the
5 legislature occurs on this, it
6 might occur on the next one, too.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Mr. Nates, you are going to
9 have to help me, how are we
10 ignoring the will of the
11 legislature? Explain
12 specifically.

13 MR. NATES:

14 Well, HCR 40, with due
15 respect to my friend Mandi
16 Mitchell, it actually was amended
17 back up to a one moratorium and
18 not a one month moratorium after
19 the session, so the will of the
20 legislature is that the
21 department of this Board not
22 approving the applications for
23 the ITEP programs until that one
24 year is up and we have a chance
25 to look at Senator Allain's bill



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1 and put in rules and regs under
2 the D&R put in the best practice
3 and guidelines for landowners.

4 MR. JONES:

5 That is effective for
6 applications filed from July 1st
7 forward, correct?

8 MR. NATES:

9 Yes. It is.

10 MR. JONES:

11 This application is filed
12 before July 1st, so I don't
13 believe we are ignoring the will
14 of the legislature. I believe we
15 are following it.

16 MR. NATES:

17 I don't mean to put words in
18 Senator Allain's mouth, but I
19 think Senator Allain asked this
20 Board to postpone about a week or
21 so until we can look at his
22 meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30
23 and look at possible rules there.
24 Was that request made?

25 MR. JONES:



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1 No.

2 MR. NATES:

3 No. Well, maybe we should
4 have made it.

5 MR. JONES:

6 Thank you, sir. I appreciate
7 your comments.

8 MR. NATES:

9 Yes, sir. Thank you.

10 MR. WOOD:

11 Is it possible to add about
12 21 words is all I got to add.

13 MR. JONES:

14 As long as it's not 23.

15 MR. WOODS:

16 Just may not make any
17 difference to you. I thought I
18 was down to ten. I just read
19 where --

20 MR. JONES:

21 Mr. Rodney Woods for the
22 record. I'm sorry.

23 MR. WOODS:

24 Forgive me. Forgive me. I
25 just read, and some of you read



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1 this, where Bill Gates has
2 purchased 69,000 acres in
3 Louisiana, No. 1 in the country.
4 The next after that is Arkansas,
5 I think at about 47. Y'all read
6 this. And then Arizona at 25,
7 and trails off from there.

8 I just think we need to
9 really think long and hard about
10 what we're doing with our
11 farmland in the state. Just an
12 added noted just to think about
13 that. Please. Thank you.

14 MR. JONES:

15 Thank you, Mr. Woods. All
16 right. Mr. Woods knew me when I
17 was in high school and college,
18 so I have to be very careful. I
19 can't give him too much mic.

20 All right. Any further
21 comments from the public? There
22 being none. We have a motion and
23 second to approve Bayou Galion
24 Solar Project. All in favor say
25 aye.



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1 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:
2 Aye.
3 MR. JONES:
4 Any oppose?
5 MR. ALLAIN:
6 Nay.
7 MR. JONES:
8 Let's do a roll call so we
9 make the record clear.
10 MS. SIMMONS:
11 David Toups.
12 MR. TOUPS:
13 Yes.
14 MS. SIMMONS:
15 Guy McInnis.
16 MR. MCINNIS:
17 Nay.
18 MS. SIMMONS:
19 Rickey Fabra.
20 MR. FABRA:
21 Yes.
22 MS. SIMMONS:
23 Manual Fajardo.
24 MR. FAJARDO:
25 Yes.



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1 MS. SIMMONS:
2 Stuart Moss.
3 MR. MOSS:
4 Yes.
5 MS. SIMMONS:
6 Representative Vincent St.
7 Blanc.
8 MR. ST. BLANC:
9 No.
10 MS. SIMMONS:
11 Senator Rick Ward.
12 MR. WARD:
13 No.
14 MS. SIMMONS:
15 Kenneth Havard.
16 MR. HAVARD:
17 No.
18 MS. SIMMONS:
19 Jerald Jones.
20 MR. JONES:
21 Yes.
22 MS. SIMMONS:
23 Senator Brett Allain.
24 MR. ALLAIN:
25 No.



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1 MS. SIMMONS:
2 Representative Scott
3 McKnight.

4 MR. MCKNIGHT:
5 No.

6 MS. SIMMONS:
7 Jan Moller.

8 MR. MOLLER:
9 Yes.

10 MS. SIMMONS:
11 Ann Villa.

12 MS. VILLA:
13 Yes.

14 MS. SIMMONS:
15 George Nassar.

16 MR. NASSAR:
17 Yes.

18 MS. SIMMONS:
19 Darryl Saizan.

20 MR. SAIZAN:
21 Yes.

22 MS. SIMMONS:
23 Ronnie Slone.

24 MR. SLONE:
25 Yes.



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1 MS. SIMMONS:
2 Dr. Shawn Wilson.
3 DR. WILSON:
4 Yes.
5 MS. SIMMONS:
6 Dr. Woodrow Wilson.
7 DR. WILSON:
8 Yes.
9 MS. SIMMONS:
10 Dr. Beverly Thompson.
11 MS. THOMPSON:
12 Yes.
13 MS. SIMMONS:
14 Sandra McQuain.
15 MS. MCQUAIN:
16 Yes.
17 MS. SIMMONS:
18 We have 14 yes's and 6 no's.
19 MR. JONES:
20 Motion carries.
21 Mr. Usie, is that it for the
22 20 renewals?
23 MR. USIE:
24 Yes. We have ten timely
25 renewals. Seven are asking



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1 deferral.

2 MR. JONES:

3 First deferrals.

4 MR. USIE:

5 20160707, ChampionX, LLC, St.

6 John the Baptist Parish.

7 20160762, ChampionX, LLC, St.

8 John the Baptist Parish.

9 20160768, ChampionX, LLC, St.

10 John the Baptist Parish.

11 20160661, Nalco Corporation,

12 LLC, West Baton Rouge Parish.

13 20160707, PT Nalco

14 Production, LLC, St. John the

15 Baptist Parish.

16 20160762, PT Nalco

17 Production, St. John the Baptist

18 Parish.

19 And 20160768, PT Nalco

20 Production, LLC, St. John the

21 Baptist Parish.

22 MR. JONES:

23 I will entertain a motion to

24 defer the three Champion

25 applications and the four Nalco



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1 applications. Excuse me.

2 Applications for renewals.

3 I have a motion from Ms.

4 Villa. Second from Mr. Nassar.

5 Any questions or comments from

6 the Board? Hearing none. Any

7 comments from the public? Hearing

8 none. All in favor say aye.

9 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

10 Aye.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Any opposed? There is no

13 opposition. Motion carries.

14 Those seven items are deferred to

15 the next meeting.

16 MR. UBIE:

17 20141484, Alliance

18 Compressors, LLC, Natchitoches

19 Parish.

20 20151305, Entergy New

21 Orleans, Inc., A B Patterson

22 Solar Plant, Orleans Parish.

23 And 20150059, PBF Holding

24 Company, St. Bernard Parish.

25 MR. JONES:



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1 Entertain a motion to approve
2 these renewals. Motion from Mr.
3 McInnis. Second from Mr. Slone.
4 Questions or comments from the
5 Board? Hearing none. Comments
6 from the public? Hearing none.
7 All in favor say aye.

8 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

9 Aye.

10 MR. JONES:

11 Motion carries. Those
12 renewals are approved.

13 MR. UBIE:

14 We have one late renewal
15 application.

16 20150005, Gulf Island, LLC.
17 Terrebonne Parish. Initial
18 contract expiration date 12-31 of
19 2020. Late renewal request date,
20 March 26, 2021.

21 MR. JONES:

22 Do we have someone here from
23 Gulf Island? Do we have someone
24 here from Gulf Island? Apparently
25 not. Well, please remind the



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1 Board that our practice in the
2 past has been when there is no
3 one here to explain the purpose
4 for the late renewal that we deny
5 that renewal. Do I entertain a
6 motion for Mr. Slone. Second by
7 Dr. Woody Wilson. That the
8 request for renewal be denied.
9 Any questions or comments from
10 the Board? Questions or comments
11 from the public? Hearing none.
12 All in favor say aye.

13 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

14 Aye.

15 MR. JONES:

16 Any opposition? There is no
17 opposition. The motion to deny
18 the renewal is approved.

19 Cancellations.

20 MR. UBIE:

21 We have six cancellation
22 request. Calumet Branded
23 Products, LLC, 20170101. The
24 company request cancellation.
25 I'm sorry. 0161. Company



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1 request cancellation in Caddo
2 Parish.

3 And Georgia Pacific Wood
4 Products South, LLC. 20120368,
5 20130719. 20140920. 20150703 and
6 20161077. LED was notified by
7 the company of the facility being
8 since July 2020 and no
9 manufacturing is currently taken
10 place, and this is all Beauregard
11 Parish.

12 MR. JONES:

13 It is my understanding that
14 the Georgia Pacific request to --

15 MR. MOSS:

16 Request to defer. A request
17 to defer on that project right
18 there because there is a
19 potential buyer and I think it is
20 from the information that I have.

21 MR. JONES:

22 Made from that motion.

23 MR. MOSS:

24 Yes, sir.

25 MR. JONES:



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1 Mr. Moss makes a motion to
2 defer the several Georgia Pacific
3 Wood Products South, LLC
4 contracts. I have a second, Mr.
5 Fajardo. A motion and second to
6 defer. All in favor say aye.

7 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

8 Aye.

9 MR. JONES:

10 Any opposition? There being
11 none. Motion carries.

12 Now, going back to Calumet
13 Branded Products. Is there a
14 motion -- a motion from Dr. Woody
15 Wilson. Second from Dr. Shawn
16 Wilson to approve that
17 cancellation.

18 Any questions or comments
19 from the Board? Any comments from
20 the public? There being none,
21 all in favor say aye.

22 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

23 Aye.

24 MR. JONES:

25 Any oppose? There is no



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1 opposition. The motion carries.

2 And, finally, we have an
3 appeal.

4 MR. UBIE:

5 Yes. One appeal from Sommer
6 Brothers Enterprises. Contract
7 20141045.

8 MR. JONES:

9 Do we have anybody here from
10 Sommer Brothers? Please come
11 forward.

12 Would you please state your
13 full name and your position with
14 the company.

15 MR. WOOD:

16 Freddy Watson. Agent for the
17 owner.

18 MR. JONES:

19 Great. Can you give us
20 background on this so that
21 everybody -- we're all on the
22 same page.

23 MR. UBIE:

24 It was deferred from the last
25 meeting to give the company time



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1 to reach an agreement with the
2 assessors office concerning the
3 taxes paid. It was a late
4 renewal request initially back in
5 the February 24th meeting. The
6 company -- there was an e-mail
7 issue of receiving e-mails. It
8 wasn't received. They were
9 appealing late renewal, and after
10 they -- the renewal request was
11 denied, we discovered that they
12 paid taxes on the contract.

13 MR. JONES:

14 So if I may, let me -- we
15 have got a lot of things going on
16 here. First of all, just as the
17 immediately proceeding the
18 situation where we had a late
19 renewal and Sommer Brothers had
20 -- what was not here, but in
21 February we were doing virtual
22 meetings and they attempted to
23 communicate with LED but because
24 of e-mail troubles that we had
25 that were pervasive in that



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1 meeting we did not get that
2 message, and so we had denied
3 their renewal despite their
4 request that it be deferred until
5 they can be here. Then we found
6 that, first of all, the statute
7 says that we cannot consider any
8 ITEP or any application where
9 taxes have been paid, and we --
10 although there was originally and
11 representation of taxes that had
12 not been paid, on further review
13 taxes had been paid on the asset,
14 so we had a situation now where
15 taxes have been paid. Now, I
16 understand that there may have
17 been some communication with the
18 assessor, and if you want to
19 bring us up-to-date where we are
20 that would be helpful.

21 MR. WATSON:

22 Correct. In February there
23 was a freeze in Louisiana and
24 Texas and we cannot get here.
25 The assessor has agreed to refund



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1 the taxes for 2020, which I
2 understand should resolve all of
3 the issues as long as the
4 exemption is granted with penalty
5 for late filing.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Do we have that in writing
8 from the assessor?

9 MR. WATSON:

10 Yes. It was e-mailed to
11 Kristin and should as well they
12 were copied on the e-mail. I
13 will let them speak on that.

14 MR. UBIE:

15 Yes. We did receive it in
16 writing from the assessor's
17 office stating that he would
18 agree to submit a change order
19 for 2020 once he was given
20 confirmation that the exemption
21 was granted.

22 MR. JONES:

23 That's an e-mail.

24 MR. UBIE:

25 An e-mail.



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1 MR. JONES:

2 An e-mail from the tax
3 assessor.

4 MR. UBIE:

5 Correct.

6 MS. CHENG:

7 It was also sent out to all
8 of the Board members with the
9 Exhibit A prior to the meeting.

10 MR. JONES:

11 I missed it. I did not see
12 it. My apologies.

13 MS. CHENG:

14 Not a problem.

15 MR. JONES:

16 All right. So, ladies and
17 gentlemen, we have a situation
18 where we can reverse -- we can
19 entertain a motion to take up the
20 appeal, which will be the first
21 motion that I'm going to ask for
22 just to consider the appeal. We
23 have a motion from Mr. Nassar to
24 consider the appeal. Second from
25 Dr. Woody Wilson. Any questions



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1 or comments on that motion? Any
2 comments from the public? Hearing
3 none. All in favor say aye.

4 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

5 Aye.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Any oppose? There is no
8 opposition, so we are now going
9 to consider the appeal. Now the
10 issue becomes taxes were paid but
11 the tax assessor is willing to
12 refund those taxes and remove the
13 property from the tax roles
14 assuming this renewal is approved
15 with the penalty. Any questions
16 about that situation?

17 Ms. Bourgeois, I'm going to
18 ask you are we on firm legal
19 grounds by doing it that way.

20 MS. BOURGEOIS:

21 Tam Bourgeois for LED and the
22 Board. There have been instances
23 where the past where the Board
24 has allowed that to condition
25 that taxes not be paid before an



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1 exemption is granted can be cured
2 by the assessor agreeing to
3 refund the previously paid taxes.

4 MR. JONES:

5 And we believe the e-mail
6 from the tax assessor is
7 efficient to meet the statute.

8 MS. BOURGEOIS:

9 I believe that has been
10 accepted in the past. And of
11 course we can always confirm
12 later that the assessor does in
13 fact give --

14 MR. JONES:

15 How do you suggest we proceed
16 with a motion today?

17 MS. BOURGEOIS:

18 I think you will be on firm
19 footing if you chose to --.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Maybe I'm old, but e-mails
22 and those issues make us a little
23 nervous. Anyway. All right.
24 Then it seems appropriate then
25 that we consider a motion to



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1 approve the renewal but because
2 of the late filing it would have
3 a one year penalty? Is that -- do
4 we have a motion to that effect.
5 The motion from Mr. Slone. We
6 have a second. Second Mr. Saizan.
7 All right. So the motion is to
8 approve the renewal with a one
9 year penalty, but I am going to
10 ask the Board to get something
11 more formal and from the tax
12 assessor to confirm the e-mail.

13 MS. CHENG:

14 We can't request a copy of
15 the change order once it is done.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Mr. Slone and Mr. Saizan, I
18 want to ask y'all to make this
19 contingent upon getting that
20 information. Can we do that?

21 MS. CHENG:

22 Well, the assessor says he
23 can't issue the change order
24 until there is a full --

25 MR. JONES:



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1 Chicken and egg problem.

2 MS. CHENG:

3 Yes. To have a fully
4 executed contract before he can
5 issue the change order.

6 MR. JONES:

7 Got it.

8 MS. CHENG:

9 So we will request a copy of
10 the change order.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Never mind. Seems like a
13 good idea at the time. All right.
14 So we have a motion and second to
15 approve the renewal with a one
16 year penalty.

17 Any questions or comments
18 from the Board? Any comments from
19 the public? All in favor say aye.

20 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

21 Aye.

22 MR. JONES:

23 Any opposition? There being
24 none. The motion carries. Thank
25 you, sir. I appreciate you being



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1 here today. I apologize for the
2 mess up.

3 All right. We now come to
4 what the last time we elected a
5 vice chair, she promptly got
6 another job in east Texas and
7 moved, so who want -- I'm
8 kidding. But we have a -- now a
9 position of vice chair that is
10 open. Do we have nominations for
11 that position? Ms. Villa.

12 MS. VILLA:

13 I have a motion to nominate
14 the Mr. Slone for the vice chair
15 position.

16 MR. JONES:

17 Mr. Slone, are you
18 entertaining any job offer
19 outside of the state?

20 MR. SLONE:

21 No. I'm not. No. I am not.

22 MR. JONES:

23 Okay. Seems like a fair
24 question to ask from me. We have
25 a nomination of Mr. Slone. Any



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1 other nominations? There being
2 none, all in favor say aye.

3 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

4 Aye. Any opposed? Mr. Slone,
5 welcome aboard. Look forward to
6 serving with you.

7 MR. SLONE:

8 Thank you.

9 MR. JONES:

10 Now, Ms. Villa, any comments
11 from the secretary. I have a few
12 comments. I appreciate the Board
13 members commenting the change
14 that we needed for today's Board
15 meeting and time so really
16 appreciate that considering.
17 It's also the week before 4th of
18 July, so I appreciate everyone
19 taking time out of your day to be
20 here, and since the extended well
21 into the lunch hour, I will be
22 brief.

23 It's nice to see everyone
24 again. Nice to see everyone's
25 faces and this is the first time



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1 as the chairman said that we are
2 all back together in full
3 capacity as well as our staff at
4 LED is that almost one hundred
5 percent back in the offices, so
6 we're very appreciative of that.
7 I want to welcome again our
8 newest Board members, Sandra
9 McQuain from Alexandria. She is
10 taking Heather Malone's position
11 on the Board, and we still have
12 one position that is still vacant
13 and hoping to get that filled
14 pretty soon.

15 With approaching the end of
16 the fiscal year, on Wednesday of
17 this year -- of this week we are
18 going to finish our fiscal year
19 of FY21 and we'll have a full
20 annual report that we're putting
21 together and make available that
22 highlights all of our efforts
23 with all of our many departments
24 within LED that we have
25 throughout our state involving



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1 economic development, so just
2 look for that report that will
3 basically culminate with all of
4 our activities for this past
5 year, which, as we all have, have
6 been a very difficult year, but
7 we had some really great
8 announcements and really good
9 progress that we made throughout
10 the state this past year.

11 And just a quick reminder to
12 the Board members that ethics did
13 place out there their training
14 that we are all required to take
15 so it's never too early to stress
16 that to the Board as far as going
17 out and taking your ethics
18 training. So that's all I have
19 today. Just want to wish
20 everyone a very safe and happy
21 4th of July weekend and enjoy
22 your time with your friends and
23 family.

24 MR. JONES:

25 Thank you, Ms. Villa.



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1 All right. Ladies and
2 gentlemen, anything else for the
3 good of the order? With that we
4 entertain a motion to adjourn.
5 Mr. Fajardo and second from Mr.
6 Moss. All in favor say aye.

7 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

8 Aye.

9 MR. JONES:

10 Thank you. See you in August.

11

12 (Meeting adjourned.)

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I, RACHEL TORRES-REGIS, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that, after having been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing pages;

That this meeting was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, and that I am informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services;

That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of



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1 Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and
2 advisory opinions of the board;

3 That I have no actual knowledge of
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5 relationship, direct or indirect, between a court
6 reporting firm and any party litigant in this
7 matter nor is there any such relationship between
8 myself and a party litigant in this matter. I am
9 not related to counsel or to the parties herein,
10 nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of
11 this matter.

12

13 Dated this 18th day of July, 2021.

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