

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 362

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry on the occasion of its
3 fiftieth anniversary for its outstanding service to Louisiana's business community,
4 promoting free enterprise, and fostering a climate for economic growth through
5 engagement in the political, legislative, judicial, and regulatory processes.

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) is widely
7 regarded as Louisiana's premier business lobbying organization and celebrates its fiftieth
8 anniversary in 2025; and

9 WHEREAS, LABI was established on September 4, 1975, by consolidating the
10 Louisiana State Chamber of Commerce, the Louisiana Manufacturers Association, and the
11 Louisiana Political Council, uniting their memberships, resources, and staff; and

12 WHEREAS, LABI's board of directors selected then-executive director of the Public
13 Affairs Research Council, Ed Steimel, to lead the organization as its first president; and

14 WHEREAS, the organization's first major task was the herculean challenge of
15 seeking enactment of a Right-to-Work law, an effort many political observers at the time
16 predicted would take years to achieve, yet LABI on its first attempt spearheaded and
17 obtained the successful passage of that law; and

18 WHEREAS, during the latter half of the 1970s, LABI sought to build on this success
19 by expanding its advocacy efforts on issues important to the business community,
20 particularly in the areas of labor and taxation law, and began engaging in legislative
21 elections; and

1 WHEREAS, on three separate occasions when the state's unemployment
2 compensation trust fund became insolvent, LABI played a leadership role in working with
3 the respective legislature and governor to address the fund's collapse and restoration,
4 preventing a major federal tax increase for Louisiana's businesses in each instance, the first
5 being in the 1980s when massive layoffs in Louisiana's oil and gas sector created an \$800
6 million obligation to the federal unemployment system for loans used to pay benefits; the
7 second occurring after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 caused the dislocation of workers and their
8 employers in the New Orleans region, generating a federal debt exceeding \$400 million; and
9 finally in 2020 when the COVID-19 outbreak shut down commerce across the country and
10 forced Louisiana's fund once again into insolvency, resulting in close to \$200 million in
11 federal debt; and

12 WHEREAS, upon Steimel's retirement in 1988, Dan Juneau succeeded him as
13 LABI's president; and

14 WHEREAS, under Juneau's leadership, LABI invested effort in education,
15 championing accountability and choice in addition to helping to create the Community and
16 Technical College System, while developing and bringing about the passage of bills that
17 served to restore an eroding workers' compensation insurance market, as well as those that
18 brought about major legal reform, and finally promoting a reorganization of Louisiana's
19 workforce delivery system to better connect employers and prospective employees; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2013, Stephen Waguespack became LABI president following
21 Juneau's retirement; and

22 WHEREAS, under Waguespack's leadership, LABI defended businesses against
23 numerous and perennial attacks on labor, legal, and taxation fronts, all while playing a
24 pivotal role in the enactment of significant legal and educational improvements; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2023, following Waguespack's departure, Will Green was appointed
26 as his successor; and

27 WHEREAS, under Green's leadership, LABI has honored its legacy while
28 strategically focusing on the future through the implementation of its LA Driven Strategic
29 Plan to advance a vibrant and sustainable business climate in Louisiana by championing free

1 enterprise to create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all citizens;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, LABI has diligently protected Louisiana's businesses against
4 unwarranted governmental disruption to their ability to operate efficiently and productively;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, many LABI alumni staff members have continued their careers working
7 within Louisiana's governmental processes to improve our state; and

8 WHEREAS, LABI has earned numerous awards and national recognition for its work
9 in Louisiana and its leadership in service to other chambers of commerce and manufacturing
10 associations across the United States, in collaboration with its national partners the U.S.
11 Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers; and

12 WHEREAS, LABI has for fifty years served as an able and effective advocate for
13 its members and nonmembers within Louisiana's business community--those of all sizes,
14 from all business and industry sectors, and from all around the state; and

15 WHEREAS, for five decades, LABI has annually been in the forefront of efforts to
16 improve Louisiana's business environment by advocating for the reformation and
17 stabilization of the state's budget and tax systems, correcting inequities in its civil justice
18 system, strengthening its energy sector, enhancing its education and training delivery and
19 outcomes, safeguarding employers' ability to provide employment opportunities for workers,
20 and advocating on so many other issues too numerous to recite in this Resolution, all for the
21 purpose of promoting business investment and job growth within our state.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to the
24 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary
25 and commend its five decades of outstanding service and accomplishments in support of the
26 state of Louisiana and its business community.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Will
28 Green, president of LABI.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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