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Senate President Cameron Henry
Louisiana State Capitol
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Speaker Phillip DeVillier
Louisiana State Capitol
P.O. Box 94062
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President Henry and Speaker DeVillier,

In my remarks at the start of this special session, I spoke about the critical responsibility we share in managing the hard-earned money entrusted to us by the people of this State, for it is their treasure that funds our government. I stated, "Everything we do in this Capital should be done with the restraints of the revenue they provide." These are words I have lived by.

As a Member of Congress, I did something few in Washington ever do. I returned over 10% of my budget unspent and asked it be used to pay down debt.

In 2016, with the State facing a substantial fiscal cliff, I embarked upon a "Fiscal Responsibility Project" as Attorney General. I challenged the Department of Justice employees to carefully review our expenses, separate needs from wants, and find better, less costly ways to meet our goals. These simple, practical steps—asking "Do we need this?" and "Can we do this more efficiently?"—it transformed how the Department operated. In just the first year of implementation we recognized approximately \$1 million in savings. We cut costs, found efficiencies, and empowered employees to contribute ideas; rewarding them with part of the savings.

It is no secret that our state budget has ballooned over the past 10 years while our population has shrunk. One of my first actions as Governor was Executive Order 24-11, which directed every department head to seek ways to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

The three of us have openly discussed the need to improve the efficiency of how the State Government serves the people. That why our very first budget called for a \$3.3 billion reduction in spending from the last Governor's budget and working with you all and the Legislature we realized a final reduction of approximately \$2 billion. What an accomplishment!

I now ask you to join me in creating a "Fiscal Responsibility Program." Appoint four members of your respective body to work with a Fiscal Responsibility Czar, whom I will appoint. Their mission will be to identify immediate ways to make our government more efficient, thus reducing cost of government.

The Fiscal Responsibility Program would begin with first examining the current services state government is mandated to perform and probe for the most efficient, modern ways to provide those services. This project can also explore whether those services should still exist and what other services our government might perform to give the best possible service at the lowest, most reasonable cost.

I believe this effort is so important—and I know it can succeed. I proved it at the Louisiana Department of Justice, and it can be repeated at a larger scale with your help.

We can go even further as we work together to fix Louisiana's tax structure and finally make Louisiana competitive. By identifying new savings and eliminating waste, we can build a leaner, more effective government while creating room for even more significant tax reductions in the future.

I look forward to your support and your appointments to this critical effort. Together, we can make a real difference for the people of Louisiana.

For Louisiana,



Jeff Landry
Governor