From the Desk of Jason El Koubi

WHERE WE LANDED AFTER 2017 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

While much of the 2017 Regular Session was characterized by partisanship and division, hindering progress on key issues like fiscal reform and infrastructure investment, there are some important outcomes to be recognized, such as criminal justice reform and strengthening transparency and accountability for transportation funding. We want to share a high-level recap on each of 1A’s 2017 Legislative Priorities.

1) Fiscal Reform

To address the state’s structural budget imbalance and a looming fiscal cliff in 2018, the Legislature took up recommendations developed over the past year by experts on the Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy. Unfortunately, most of the recommendations failed to gain traction, meaning the Legislature will likely have to return to a Special Session before certain temporary taxes are set to expire in July 2018, in addition to the Special Session to solve the FY 17-18 budget imbalance and a looming fiscal cliff in 2018. The overhaul is projected to reduce the state’s prison population by 10 percent over the next decade, saving the state approximately $262 million. Most of the savings will be reinvested in rehabilitation and reentry programs which will improve public safety. 1A joined with a broad, diverse coalition of organizations to support improving public safety, workforce, and the state’s fiscal health.

6) Economic Development

Over the past decade, Louisiana secured unprecedented levels of private investment partly due to a system of economic development incentives. 1A supports protecting and strengthening economic development programs with demonstrated return on public investment. To that end, 1A supported two key bills to protect and strengthen the Angel Investor Tax Credit and the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit. These bills, HB454 (Abramson) and HB300 (Davis), passed unanimously.

1A would like to thank all of those who helped support our priorities, including our partner organizations throughout the state. We would also like to thank 1A investors Haynie & Associates and The Picard Group for helping to represent Acadiana’s business community at the Capitol. Most of all, we would like to thank 1A’s legislative delegation for their service and leadership on behalf of Acadiana.

Learn more at OneAcadiana.org/2017-recap.

Focused on Forward,

Jason El Koubi

Learn more at OneAcadiana.org/2017-recap.
Guidry Industrial Supplies and Services
Wednesday, May 10, 2017

On May 15, 1A Brought Leaders Together for Acadiana Day at the Capitol

Members of Acadiana’s Legislative Delegation Addressed Business Leaders

Governor John Bel Edwards Proclaimed May 15 Acadiana Day

Leaders, Advocates, and Legislators United for Acadiana’s Priorities

See more at OneAcadiana.org/Acadiana-Day-2017

Focused on Forward

Advocating for Acadiana’s Top Priorities

Learn more at www.OneAcadiana.org/2017-Recap