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For Immediate Release:

Southwest Louisiana Leaders Challenge Biden Administration LNG Permitting Pause

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A delegation of Southwest Louisiana business leaders recently concluded a strategic fly-in to the nation's capital, addressing the Biden Administration's LNG permitting pause and its impact on Gulf Coast communities. The event, held from September 24 to 26, 2024, and presented by Advantous Consulting, facilitated crucial dialogues with Congressional representatives and Cabinet-level officials.

Key Highlights:

1. The delegation met with federal policymakers to discuss the LNG permitting pause.
2. Leaders emphasized the pause's negative impact on local businesses and regional economic growth.
3. A broad coalition of partners demonstrated a united front on energy and transportation issues.

Stuart Moss, owner of 2BG Strategies and delegation leader, stated, "This fly-in was pivotal in conveying how the LNG permitting pause is stifling our local economy. We provided concrete examples of stunted business opportunities and urged for policies that support, rather than hinder, our region's growth."

The delegation included:

- Kim Montie, Executive Director, Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District
- Tom Choate, Founding Member, Gulf Coast Industrial Group
- Ethan Miller, Gulf Coast Industrial Group member

- Ronnie Petree, Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development, Tourist Commission, and Chamber of Commerce
- Creed Romano, Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development, Tourist Commission and Chamber of Commerce

Key issues addressed:

1. Direct impact of the LNG permitting pause on local businesses
2. Critical transportation infrastructure needs for regional development
3. Balancing environmental stewardship with economic vitality
4. Specific examples of policy-related business challenges in Gulf Coast communities

Kim Montie emphasized, "Our ports are crucial economic drivers. The current pause on LNG permits directly threatens our competitiveness and growth potential."

A diverse coalition supported the event:

Silver Sponsors: SunGas Renewables, CLECO

Partners: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development, Louisiana Central Industry and Entrepreneurship, Port Association of Louisiana, Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Van Ness Feldman, Jeff Davis Electric Co-Op, The Bank, 2BG Strategies, and others.

Tom Choate added, "Our meetings on Capitol Hill illuminated the real-world consequences of the LNG permitting pause. We're hopeful this firsthand perspective will inform future policy decisions."

Ethan Miller concluded, "The unity demonstrated by our diverse stakeholders sends a clear message about Southwest Louisiana's determination. We're committed to collaborating with federal officials to create policies that foster our region's prosperity."

This proactive engagement underscores Southwest Louisiana's dedication to shaping energy policies that support regional economic vitality. The delegation remains committed to ongoing dialogue to ensure future policies align with the needs of Gulf Coast communities.

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