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September 9, 2011

Board of Directors
Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
117 West Garden Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors:

The Perdido Key Chamber Board has appreciated the opportunity to work with the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Board Over the course of the last year as an ex officio representative.

The economy of Perdido Key is dependent upon proper tourism marketing of the area, and therefore reliant upon appropriate funding from TDT revenue. Our chamber board is primarily derived of resort business owners, resort property managers, restaurant and recreational facilities owners and those in the ancillary services that are dependent on tourism, and we have a valuable voice to lend to the discussions.

We value the collective efforts of our organizations to build existing businesses, and to expand the possibilities for businesses in our area. These efforts have paid the community handsomely since the BP oil spill cast its shadow over the tourism industry and threatened to shut business down on Perdido Key and Pensacola Beach.

In light of events made public in the Pensacola News Journal, we have determined that a position statement from our board is warranted.

Though we are of the opinion that changes to the process of distribution of TDT funding are needed, we firmly believe that a full, open and deliberate process must be followed in order to determine what is in fact a positive change.

Our board extends our unanimous support of your President, Jim Hizer, and his statement: "we clearly need an open, transparent process that includes independent analysis of how we do tourism in this community."

We call upon the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to endorse such a process with complete analysis of the TDT funding distribution methodology as it is, and how to maximize its impact in the future. This process must be inclusive of the broad range of persons across Escambia County dependent upon the tourism industry, and must include members of the Perdido Key area.

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Alison R. Davenport, Chairman
Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Jim Hizer, BOCC's Robertson, Valentino, White, Robinson and Young