



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release Contact: Charles Gaiennie, 985-446-6088

SOUTH LOUISIANA ECONOMIC COUNCIL DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED HONORARY CONSUL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5 IN BATON ROUGE

Bayou Region, LA - February 17, 2010 – Mr. Paris “Pye” Theriot, Director of International Development for the South Louisiana Economic Council, has received an appointment as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is scheduled to receive credentials at an official ceremony scheduled for Friday, March 5 in Baton Rouge. As Honorary Consul, Theriot will serve on behalf of the Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United States Erlan Idrissof to promote cooperation between government, commercial and academic interests both in Kazakhstan and in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. In his role as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Theriot will also serve as the official representative on behalf of the Kazakh government at state and federally sponsored events.

The appointment comes at the recommendation of Louisiana Congressman Charlie Melancon and Louisiana Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu and is an official appointment of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with approval by U.S. Department of State.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon said, “The appointment of Mr. Pye Theriot to a position of importance creates a unique opportunity for Louisiana to develop significant economic, educational and cultural ties within the oil-rich Caspian Sea. The opportunities for infrastructure development in oil and gas exploration, production and transportation are very similar to those that existed in the Gulf of Mexico back in the ‘50s and ‘60s when the pioneers in the oil and gas business, including Pye Theriot’s family, unleashed the economic boom in oil and gas that has driven our economy for decades. To have the opportunity to export our expertise to that region is an exciting opportunity for our state, our companies and our economy.”



SLEC CEO Vic Lafont said, “This appointment is the result of a long-term approach to locate opportunities for international expansion for our companies that provide opportunity with minimal risk. Officials of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been very proactive in working with us to open the door for our companies to succeed in the Caspian Sea. Having Pye, a native of this region, as Honorary Consul is a great step in the progression of new international opportunities.”

Theriot is scheduled to receive the credentials of his appointment at an official ceremony from 12:45 to 3 p.m. at the Camelot Club in Baton Rouge that will be officiated by representatives of the U.S. State Department and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

About the South Louisiana Economic Council

The South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) is a regionally focused economic development agency servicing the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary and Terrebonne. Formed in 1983, SLEC provides industrial assistance and programs designed to create economic growth for the Bayou Region. More information on SLEC can be found at www.bayouregion.com by calling 985-448-4485.