

Letter to the Editor

SNF a tremendous gain for Iberville Parish

Dear Editor,

Most people don't recognize the tremendous amount of time, resources and teamwork that is required to land a new company of the magnitude of SNF in Louisiana. Likewise, I don't think most people recognize the magnitude of this project for Iberville, the Capital Region and the State of Louisiana.

While the state, and our region, have garnered much larger industrial expansions and projects in capital spending, very few will produce 500 good paying jobs with full benefits. The SNF facility will do just that within 5 years. In addition, the LSU economic impact study on the facility states it will produce 900 indirect jobs, will inject \$3.7 billion in the state economy between 2010 and 2025, and will produce \$130 million in local and state taxes. This is quite significant for this region and the state.

The announcement of SNF's \$362 million facility in Iberville on June 19 was a long time in coming, and the recruiting process was indeed very demanding, with many issues and obstacles to overcome.

I would like to thank Gov. Bobby Jindal, as well as Secretary Stephen Moret and the Department of Economic Development for the very attractive incentive package they put together to get this facility; and our legislative delegation, Senator Rob Marionneau, Representative Karen St. Germain, and Representative Elton Aubert for endorsing and voting for the state's economic development Mega Fund, which certainly played a major role in us landing this company. Our legislative delegation was right there every step of the way and played an important role in often times handling very demanding negotiations.

I would also like to thank Shintech Louisiana, LLC, Site Manager David Wise and Shintech Inc. Controller Dick Mason for their willingness to work with SNF by allowing a much needed rail spur to cross their property at their facility south of Plaquemine. Without this spur, the SNF facility would not be locating here.

Finally, I want to thank Iberville Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso for his untiring efforts in pursuing this company. We truly have a parish president who understands and wants economic development and will not take "no" or "can't be done" for an answer. President Ourso's unwavering support and intense involvement in pushing for this facility were absolutely critical to our success.

We are thrilled to have SNF make a home in Iberville, and welcome the company with open arms. Likewise, we at the Iberville Chamber of Commerce remain committed to attracting new projects and jobs to our parish. It is a win for all of us.

Sincerely,
Hank Grace
Executive Director
Iberville Chamber of Commerce