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LOUISIANA STATE TREASURER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Treasurer Schroder Issues Statement On Governor's Proposal To Reduce Main Street Recovery Program

BATON ROUGE, LA – State Treasurer John M. Schroder issued the following statement today on Gov. John Bel Edwards' proposal to further devastate struggling small businesses by moving \$175 million from the Main Street Recovery Program:

“If the governor removes \$175 million from the Main Street Recovery Program, 79% of eligible businesses who have already applied won't receive the grant they are entitled to. This would be catastrophic to thousands of small businesses across this state.

The governor wants you to believe the program's not working. He's wrong. The program is doing exactly what it was intended to do. It is helping small businesses survive during a pandemic.

In the next few days, we will stop taking applications because all of the \$275 million will be obligated. We're not even at the halfway mark for this program. The average grant is \$11,500. For our small businesses, that's a lot of money. It's the difference between closing down or keeping their doors open.

The governor and I agree on one thing. The balance of the Unemployment Trust Fund is a huge problem. Yet, once again, the governor wants to resolve a financial problem with a short-sighted solution. At the rate the trust fund is dwindling, shifting money from Main Street to the trust fund would only raise the balance for a few weeks.

Our small businesses need our help – not short-term budget tricks designed to save the governor from making hard decisions. Make no mistake. Taking \$175 million from this program would be an insult to every small business owner who had the guts to build a business from scratch. The governor needs to help our businesses stay in business, not shut them down.”

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