

Jay Dardenne
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF LOUISIANA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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August 13, 2009

Mr. Daniel L. Juneau
President
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry
P.O. Box 80258
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0258

Dear Mr. Juneau:

I am pleased to announce several major operational changes within the Commercial Division of the Secretary of State's Office. Beginning November 9, 2009, we will be providing online registration services for profit and non-profit corporations, both domestic and foreign, and domestic limited liability companies. Additionally, you and your clients will be able to file annual reports online.

Of course, you will still be able to file in person, by mail or by fax, but we hope this online feature, allowing payment by credit card, will be more expedient and cost effective.

We are redesigning our computer system to provide for a more efficient and user-friendly registration process. Upon receipt of an online filing for a new corporation or limited liability company, an agent acceptance form will be e-mailed to the individual identified as serving in this capacity. The designated agent will have three (3) days to accept or reject this responsibility. Following acceptance by the agent, checking for name availability will be performed by my staff and will be provided with no increase in filing fees. This also eliminates the need for the expedite fee you may previously have paid for immediate processing.

Prior to the due date of annual reports, the entity will receive a postcard with its charter number and a temporary user ID, which will allow the entity's representative to log in to our Web site to make any changes. The form also will include an option to designate that no changes are necessary.

The most noticeable change will take effect on September 9, 2009, when we modify our internal process in preparation for the online registration feature. Effective this day, we will discontinue issuing gold-sealed certificates as proof of registration. Instead we will produce black-and-white registration certificates that will include a validation number that can be used to confirm all entities registered with our office. We will introduce legislation next session to authorize and validate this procedure in the Louisiana Code of Evidence. Until this change is made in the Code, we will continue to provide our new certificates in the traditional "blueback" fashion.

This is just the beginning of filing enhancements that we are making in our Commercial Division. I am confident that after all our customers become used to these changes, you will see even higher levels of efficiency and customer service which you and your clients have come to expect from our office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Dardenne", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jay Dardenne
Secretary of State