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### **Special-interests line up to make impact**

BATON ROUGE -- Even Gov. Bobby Jindal admits there are more players at the table than usual when it comes to his ongoing special session on ethics reform.

Endorsements have poured in from good-government groups and government associations, and Jindal, a Republican, can boast about having significant backing.

Not surprisingly, the Republican legislative delegation was among the first groups to come out in support of Jindal's opening remarks to the Legislature Sunday evening.

"The members look forward to a healthy dialogue and debate to refine the details of each proposal as outlined in the call," states a news release from the delegation. "As a group we realize the important task that lies ahead."

GOP lawmakers, however, aren't the only ones who have jumped on the Jindal bandwagon. Here's a quick look at the groups who are

backing Jindal's efforts and what they have to say about the special session on ethics reform:

#### Council for a Better Louisiana

"From CABL's perspective this is an extremely aggressive agenda for the special session. While Louisiana has seen many substantive accomplishments in ethics reform over the years, this is clearly the most comprehensive single package of reforms proposed by any governor since the creation of the ethics code itself. And there is much of substance in this package including: increased financial disclosure for virtually all elected officials, prohibitions on officials doing certain kinds of business with the state, more lobbyist financial disclosure, increased transparency in a variety of areas of government and elimination of some of the more notorious exceptions in the ethics code."

#### LA Ethics 1

"Despite meaningful progress in recent years, Louisiana has a long and colorful history of government corruption, which has left our state with a brand associated with a lack of integrity and transparency in government. Business executives nationwide suggest that this brand image is a significant obstacle to Louisiana's economic development efforts. Dramatic improvements to governmental laws and enforcement would position Louisiana as a state known for honest, transparent, and accountable government."

#### Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Unfortunately, Louisiana has a sad history of corruption at all levels of government. This is harming the common good in various ways. First, it discourages our citizens from participating in the political process itself. Secondly, it convinces out-of-state business

interests that it would be a mistake for them to invest in our state. Thus good paying jobs for our citizens, and the attendant taxes they, and the businesses employing them, would pay never come to Louisiana. Thirdly, this in turn negatively impacts our government's ability to meet the legitimate educational, health and other social needs of our people."

#### Blueprint Louisiana

"During the special session on ethics, Blueprint Louisiana will work to support legislation, ... and, as promised, we will publicly hold our organization and legislators who endorsed the Blueprint Agenda accountable for successes and failures. Certainly, one clear mandate from last fall's elections was stronger ethics laws. Gov. Jindal is leading with ethics, and numerous new legislators ran on platforms that included ethics reform. We would not be surprised if there is consensus on additional items (beyond the Blueprint recommendations) that advance the cause of Louisiana becoming a national model for ethics in government. There's no question success on ethics in the special session would enable Louisiana to highlight new, positive developments about our state's political and business environments."

#### Louisiana Municipal Association

"The Louisiana Municipal Association Ethics Legislation Committee ... has agreed to support Gov. Jindal's proposed financial disclosure package. ... Gov. Jindal's ability to listen and work with local government to address our concerns is the reason we ... support this most important issue of ethics reform. We are proud to stand with the Governor in showing the world that there is a new day in Louisiana."

#### Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

"We support requiring financial disclosure by statewide elected officials, legislators and elected officials serving in judicial offices with parish- or district-wide jurisdictions. This would include district attorneys, judges, clerks and sheriffs."

#### Louisiana Assessors' Association

"By working and listening to elected officials at both the local and state levels, good government groups and the public, Gov. Jindal has presented a sensible and strong financial-disclosure package that the assessors around the state wholeheartedly support. We will stand side by side with the governor during the upcoming special session to ensure that his strong ethics package is successful, bringing a new day in Louisiana for transparency."

#### Louisiana District Attorneys' Association

"The Louisiana District Attorneys' Association supports Gov. Bobby Jindal in his effort to improve and strengthen ethics rules and laws for our state."