



"A Rich Mixture"

July 31, 2019

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Mayor Tony Kennon
Orange Beach

Mayor John Koniar
Foley

Hon. Skip Gruber
Chairman
Baldwin County Commission
201 East Section Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Dear Skip:

Gulf United Metro Business Organization (GUMBO) is planning a Tourism Economic Development Summit October 16 – 18, 2019 at the new Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center. All members of the House and Senate Tourism Committees and entire Baldwin County legislative delegation will be invited to attend. Spouses/guests will also be invited.

A draft agenda is attached to this letter. The agenda will include tours of Gulf State Park, including the lodge and conference center, and OWA. Attendees will also hear presentations from Lee Sentell, Director of Alabama Department of Tourism; Herb Malone, President and CEO of Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Tourism; Chris Blankenship, Director of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and Governor Kay Ivey.

We also intend to include a message from Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance President Lee Lawson regarding the Baldwin County Megasite and the opportunities that it presents to our county, region and state.

Attendees' expenses for meals and lodging at Gulf State Park Lodge will be covered by GUMBO and other summit sponsors. We expect 8 – 10 sponsors and will provide a list once they are finalized.

We are asking our local governments to assist in this effort with a sponsorship of \$10,000. These funds will be used to underwrite the costs of the event including lodging, meals and entertainment of our guests and their spouses.

We are seeking and anticipate receiving pre-clearance for this event under the exceptions outlined within the Alabama ethics statute by the Alabama Ethics Commission.

GUMBO is a coalition of local business leaders, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors' bureaus, and tourism/travel organizations who are committed to the intelligent growth and development of south Baldwin County, Alabama. Our mission is to foster better communication between area business leaders and government officials at the local, state, and federal levels to enhance the growth and sustainability of south Baldwin County and provide economic opportunity for our citizens.

We hope that the Baldwin County Commission will participate in this event as a sponsor along with other local governments in south Baldwin County. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tommy Lee
Chairman, GUMBO

P.O. Box 658 • Foley, AL 36536 • (251) 752-2845

www.gumbogroup.org

Wednesday, 16 October 2019

- 3:00 pm Check in at Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center
- 4:00 pm Tour of Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center
- 5:00 pm Reception
- 6:00 pm Buffet Seafood Dinner (Tourism Committee members, GUMBO Stakeholders and Board of Directors, Baldwin County Legislative Delegation, Baldwin County Mayors, Baldwin County Commission)

Thursday, 17 October 2019

- 7:30 am Buffet Breakfast
- 8:00 am **Welcome**
GUMBO Chairman Tommy Lee, Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft, Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon, Foley Mayor John Koniar
- 8:30 am **State of Alabama Tourism**
Lee Sentell, Director, Alabama Department of Tourism
- 8:45 am **State of Gulf Coast Tourism**
Herb Malone, President and CEO Gulf Shores Orange Beach Tourism
- 9:00 am **State of Alabama State Parks and In-Depth Report on Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center**
Chris Blankenship, Director, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- 9:30 am **Baldwin County Economic Development Megasite**
Lee Lawson, President, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 Tour of Gulf State Park
- 11:00 am Tour of OWA
- 12:00 pm Return to Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Free Time
- 5:00 pm Depart for Governor's Gulf Shores Residence
- 5:30 pm Reception at Governor's Gulf Shores Residence
- 6:00 pm Remarks by Governor Kay Ivey
- 6:30 pm Dinner Governor's Gulf Shores Residence (GUMBO Board of Directors, Tourism Committee members)
- 7:30 pm Return to Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center

Friday, 18 October 2019

- 7:30 am Breakfast at Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center
- 8:30 am Check out