



**To Louisiana Senators, Fellow Auctioneer's and Association Members:**

I kindly ask you to take the time to read this letter concerning the possible appointment of Mr. Freddie Lee Phillips to the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board (LALB) by Governor John Bel Edwards and the LA Senate Governmental Committee. I have been a licensed auctioneer in the state of Louisiana and many other states since 1993. I am currently president of the Louisiana Auctioneers Association (LAA), a long time member of the NAA and have been involved in the auction industry on a daily basis for the past thirty-two years.

After not being re-appointed to the LALB several years ago Mr. Phillips formed his own auction association under the name Louisiana Association of Professional Auctioneers ( LAPA ) that has a membership count of two with only one member (Mr. Phillips) holding a Louisiana auction license. He formed the association despite the fact that the LAA has represented auctioneers, associates, and affiliates for many years and was available for him to join. Upon forming LAPA Mr. Phillips has continuously brought lawsuits against the LALB which were lost by Mr. Phillips and to this day continually attends LALB meetings during which he causes major disruptions and challenges the LALB on any and all issues and decisions. LAPA also sends biased edited videos and e-mails of the LALB meetings to auctioneers in Louisiana and around the nation condemning the integrity and professionalism of the LALB and its members. Included in the transmissions LAPA continually portrays the majority of all auctioneers and auctions in the state of Louisiana as a dishonest and corrupt. Mr. Phillips through his association has even had the audacity to slander distinguished LAA and NAA "Hall of Fame" members. These antics by Mr. Phillips and LAPA have been going on for over three years and have resulted in no new members joining LAPA. In my view and all the auctioneers I have spoken, with Mr. Phillips is a bitter individual and seems to hold some kind of grudge against the auction process.

I encourage anyone who is involved in the decision regarding the appointment of Mr. Phillips to conduct a background check and/or visit his LAPA website <http://www.auctioneer-la.org> to assess his character.

As president of the Louisiana Auctioneers Association and representing its members, I would like to convey to anyone involved in this decision, we are unanimously against this appointment. We firmly believe if he were to be appointed he would continue his shenanigans and create an unfavorable opinion by the public toward the auction industry.

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