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## Mayor Friday Ellis, City Council, Monroe Chamber Visit Lawmakers in D.C.

*(Monroe, LA) Mayor Friday Ellis, BESE Board Member Ashley Ellis, all five members of the Monroe City Council, and a delegation from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce traveled to Washington D.C. last week to speak with our area's federal delegation.*

*We had meetings with U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy about projects that directly impact the city's infrastructure. We championed the need for progress on the years-old Kansas Lane Connector Project and informed on what is needed to turn dirt on projects in the City of Monroe.*

*In the meeting with Congresswoman Julia Letlow, the group discussed how to grow our agriculture sector as well as watershed projects the City has planned. Another topic of discussion was the need to make a positive impact on education in the City of Monroe and our region.*

*Congressmen Steve Scalise and Mike Johnson met with the team to discuss high-level projects for the City of Monroe and shared some projects that will help guide the future of our great city. Mayor Ellis says this visit to our nation's capital was invaluable.*

*"This trip provided an opportunity to have one-on-one access with our federal delegation to forge relationships and inform their teams of the critical infrastructure needs in Monroe. We had a chance to have uninterrupted conversations about progress in Monroe. We received a lot of positive feedback from lawmakers who were delighted to see leaders across I-20 working together as one unit. I'm really excited about our next steps in the City of Monroe."*

*Mayor and First Lady Ashley Ellis took on education while in D.C.; they served as panelists for the "Lunch & Learn: Educating Today for Tomorrow's Future in Louisiana." It was a panel made up of educators, education advocates, and elected officials and was a great opportunity to share ideas and work together to move Louisiana's education and workforce to the next level.*

Best,

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